Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support delaying federalization to December 2010?

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Sunday, October 04, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of October 2, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

New Typhoon

Landslides buried two families in the Philippines as they sheltered in their homes from Asia's latest typhoon.

ASIA...Page 17

Mudslide

Rescue workers dug through piles of mud for about 30 missing people from a mudslide that has killed 21 in Sicily.

WORLD...Page 18

A lesson learned the hard way. **PAGE 3**

'Don't extend investor visa waiver beyond 2014' **PAGE 8**

Typhoon spares Saipan, Tinian—again

As NMI breathes a sigh of relief, attention returns to A. Samoa

RELATED NEWS

- Samoans prepare to bury tsunami victims. **PAGE 14**

CONTACT INFO

Red Cross 'Safe and Well' Program

- Web site: https://disastersafe.redcross.org/
- Tel: 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

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U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) arrived in Guam Saturday night and was scheduled to return to the Northern Mariana Islands yesterday.

"It appears that our prayers are answered and the Northern Mariana Islands has been spared any major damage," Sablan said. "I want to thank all of the people at the Federal Emer-

See SAMOA on Page 4

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An inmate from the Bureau of Corrections cuts off the fallen branches from trees during a clearing operation along Beach Road on Sunday, a day after Typhoon Melor hit the island.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Saipan dodged a bullet yet again—the second in the last 18 days—after Typhoon Melor sliced through the channel between Saipan and Agrihan Saturday night, remaining at sea even as gained strength and became a super typhoon yesterday.

Melor was already moving westward away from the Northern Marianas yesterday, leaving no major damage to property. In fact, its maximum sustained winds decreased as it made its closest approach to Saipan—

See TYPHOON on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

- Classes resume in public schools, college. **PAGE 3**

CPA REOPENS AIRPORTS ON TWO ISLANDS

Saipan, Tinian seaports remain closed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reopened the Saipan and Tinian international airports yesterday morning as soon as the islands were declared typhoon-free and assessment of properties was completed.

MaryAnn Q. Lizama, the acting CPA executive director, notified the two airports of the resumption of operation at 8am Sunday.

See SEAPORTS on Page 4

90 homes still without power due to typhoon

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Although Super Typhoon Melor left no lasting damage to property on Saipan and Tinian, the aging power transmission and distribution network of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. still took a hit, with about 90 customers still without power as of 10am Sunday.

CUC assistant executive director Abe

See HOMES on Page 4

Local

CDA urged to abandon plans for defunct Gardenia

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama is urging the Commonwealth Development Authority to dispose of the defunct Pacific Gardenia Hotel and abandon plans to convert it into an incubator business.

Lizama said the CDA should instead allow professional business consultants to start the incubator business, similar to how Marianas Business Plaza operates.

He said that Gardenia was actually doing well as a business entity before it went bankrupt. He said mismanagement, coupled with the bad economy, were the main reasons for its eventual demise.

Lizama said the Small Business Administration may be asked for their opinion on what would be best for the former hotel, which now lies abandoned.

"The alternative is to dispose the hotel to a willing buyer at a reduced sale price. CDA can't expect to recoup 100 percent of its defaulted loan. Get rid of it as soon as possible," Lizama said.

He said CDA needs to hear business advice from someone with experience in marketing and development. "Search for such advice and go from there. Too much money will be lost if CDA is one to run an incubator business."

He said the former hotel is a

See CDA on Page 4

Man gets 20 days in jail for stalking

The Superior Court has ordered a man to spend 20 days in prison for violating a court order when he stalked his former girlfriend.

Associate Judge Perry Inos sentenced Laloulu I. Henry to one year in prison, all suspended except for 20 days, for violating an order of protection.

Inos gave Henry credit for the time he had already served in prison.

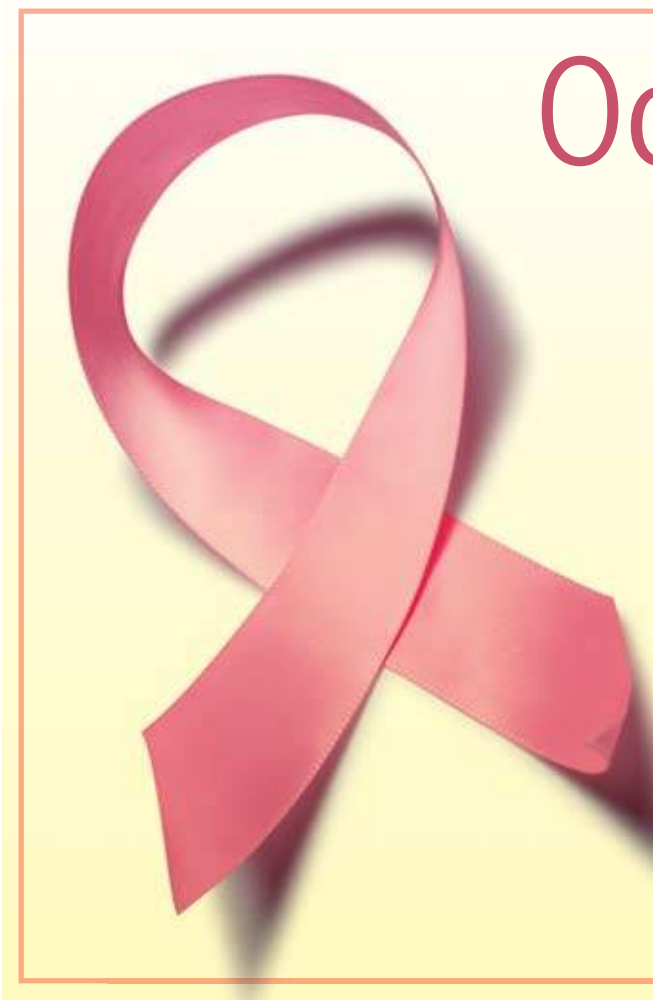
He placed the defendant on three years of supervised probation and allowed him to relocate to Guam.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Henry with two counts of assault, two counts of disturbing the peace, two counts of violating an order of protection, and one count of stalking in the first degree.

Henry signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to one count of violating an order of protection.

The plea agreement stated that on July 12, 2009, the defendant, while subject to an order for protection, entered a business establishment that the victim was patronizing.

Henry snuck up behind her and whispered in her ears. When the victim reminded him of the court's order, the defendant left, but he continued calling and sending text messages to her. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



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A lesson learned the hard way

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The onslaught of Typhoon Chaba five years ago, while horrifying, taught island residents never to ignore warnings whenever a new typhoon system threatens to slice through the Marianas.

This valuable lesson came to the fore for many of Saipan's residents, especially those living in areas of the island vulnerable to floods and falling trees, during the weekend visit of Super Typhoon Melor to the region.

Families on Saipan didn't have to be told twice to take shelter at the island's seven designated evacuation centers.

Peter Lucas, 48, secured his four children and wife as early as Friday by informing Garapan Elementary School that the family will stay on the site until they are ready to go back home. The Lucas family resides in Chinatown, their house located in a hillside surrounded by big trees.

Carrying his 1-year-old child Saturday, he recounted how Chaba affected their lives in August 2004 when trees fell and almost leveled their house to the ground. Flash floods also severely damaged their home at that time.

"After having that Chaba experience…I will never risk my family again. This is why we make the necessary preparations for this upcoming typhoon. Security and the safety of the kids are my priorities," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Garapan shelter early Saturday morning.

Lucas' kids are ages 1, 7, 13 and 14 years old.

He said he will not wait for trees to fall and block the road outside their home before coming to the evacuation center. "In times like these, every minute counts."

Lucas, a government employee, brought with him a supply of foods—mostly canned goods—for the expected duration of their stay at the shelter.

"I also brought candles, water, clothes, blankets, first-aid kit and other important supplies for my family," he said, adding that they also secured their home equipment before going to the center.

"I just hope and pray that this time, it [super typhoon] will not bring us so much damage," he said.

After Typhoon Chaba, the Lucas family lived in an evacuation center for several weeks, returning to their home only after it was rebuilt with the help of the federal government.

At the Dandan Elementary School, 64-year-old Soledad Torres said she and her family didn't wait for the winds to get stronger before taking shelter.

"Though we did some preparations in our house, I don't think those are enough to protect my grandchildren during strong winds…so I always make sure that they are safe," she said, adding that her family was the first to seek shelter at the school Friday noon.

She said seven members of her family regularly evacuate during strong typhoon forecasts. Although they are tired of evacuating during the typhoon season, Torres said "this is the only way I can protect my family."

Her family brought some grocery supplies to the center, enough to feed them for two days' time.

At Marianas High School, 69-year-old Romeo Macaso and his friend were the last to be taken in at the shelter.

Macaso lives near Lake Susupe where he also tends a small farm and livestock.

Although he prepared for the typhoon by harvesting his crops and securing his livestock, he decided to evacuate due to the rising waters of Lake Susupe. Luckily for him, the lake kept to its banks and didn't overflow this time.

Classes resume today in public schools, college

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said yesterday that classes in public schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian will resume today. The Northern Marianas College also announced the reopening of its three campuses on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian today, saying classes will take place as scheduled.

School activities and operations were suspended Friday as a result of the statewide professional development trainings for PSS employees on Saipan. The trainings were later suspended due to the onset of Typhoon Melor in the CNMI.

Sablan reminded parents and guardians to take precautionary measures as they take the children to schools due to post-typhoon wind and rain that may be in the vicinity.

Eight schools were designated as evacuation centers by the government during the weekend Typhoon Melor. PSS school buses and vans were also used in transporting evacuees during the storm.

Saipan and Tinian were declared in typhoon condition 1 on Saturday.

A check with the schools yesterday showed that teachers and administrators of affected schools immediately cleaned up their campuses as soon as the evacuees returned to their homes. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Live-fire exercises on FDM

The U.S. Navy will conduct live-fire training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Oct. 6-7, from 5am to 1am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during the time and date indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. ***(PR)***

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[2] Guam and Saipan residents and branches only. Must have a Continental Airlines OnePass account to receive OnePass Miles. No purchase necessary. See branch for official rules.

Conservation innovation grants awarded

Honolulu, HI—The Natural Resources Conservation Service announced last week the award of $318,720 in Conservation Innovation Grants to five projects designed to develop and refine cutting-edge technologies and approaches that can help producers maintain viable agricultural operations. This is almost $30,000 more than last year.

"There are some truly exceptional ideas in the community that can help protect the Pacific Islands and our unique agricultural and forest areas," said Lawrence Yamamoto, Director of the Pacific Islands Area for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. "This program provides an opportunity to study and showcase some of these ideas," he continued.

CIG funds pilot projects and conservation field trials that can last from one to three years. Grants for approved projects cannot exceed 50 percent of the total project cost and the federal contribution for a single project cannot exceed $75,000.

As part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service administers CIG, which provides competitive grants to state and local governments, tribes, non-governmental organizations and individuals to promote the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applicants from Hawaii, Guam, and the Common Wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requested CIG grants totaling about $1,341,802. Projects must involve EQIP-eligible producers.

This fiscal year's selected projects will address multiple resource concerns including water quality, pest management, wildlife habitat, and energy conservation. These projects include: "Planting Tree Islands on Private Ranchland"; "Sustainable, Self-Sufficient Electricity Generation for Small Farms"; "Wireless Remote Trapping for the Effective Control of Feral Ungulates"; "Integrated Control Tactics for the New Guinea Sugarcane Weevil"; and "Invasive Weed Mgt Strategies Using Ballistic Technology."

The information gathered from these projects is intended to lead to new technologies and practices that producers and farmers can adapt to their operation that will help sustain or improve agriculture while conserving our natural resources. To learn more about CIG projects in the Pacific Islands Area please visit: http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/index.html. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider. ***(USDA)***

SECOND PLACE WINNER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's Saipan owner/president Jose Ayuyu and store general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu turn over the prize won by Green Meadow School students during McDonald's fundraiser for private schools on Saipan. Seen here receiving the $3,200 check are Milagros A. Merjilla (president), Marilyn T. Divino (principal) and Eleonor A. Alejo (guidance counselor). As part of the fundraising, the students distributed coupons that encouraged customers to avail of McDonald's regular food offerings as well as promo items and new creations such as the Angus beef burger.

HOMES

From Page 1

Utu Malae said, however, that this is a significant drop from about 500 customers at the peak of the storm.

He described the havoc caused by the typhoon on CUC's power network as "fair" but did not give a dollar figure on the extent of the damage.

Malae said CUC will complete the restoration of power to these places tomorrow, Tuesday.

"The line crews have been working round-the-clock in 12- to 14-hour shifts since Friday evening. The restoration should be completed by Tuesday, although there are a few customers who have to repair their side of the service drop," Malae said.

The CUC official said there was also no damage reported on the power distribution and generation system of Rota and Tinian, which were farther from the eye of Typhoon Melor from Saipan.

Malae said that damage to the water and wastewater facilities was also minimal.

He said the sporadic power outages shut down pumps in affected areas as well as in one of the wastewater treatment plants. The standby generators were fired up as needed to energize the pumps at the wells and sewer lift stations, he said.

Extra CUC personnel were also assigned to their posts in shifts and were relieved at 2am Sunday.

Malae disclosed that outages during the two-day typhoon were caused by flying debris or vegetation coming in contact with primary lines, including trees falling on conductors.

Interestingly, he said, only one power pole fell over and hardware failure was a major cause of outages and is being addressed by the Engineering Department at present.

"During this storm as the last one, the power system did not have to be shut down even at 6pm to 7pm when the winds were at their peak strength and two out of eight feeders tripped," Malae said.

He said this is a good sign that the system is more storm-resistant, although CUC is a long way off from being typhoon-resistant.

To be typhoon-resistant, more primary lines need to be buried even though the initial cost of burying conductors is much higher than overhead.

"There is still too much vegetation growing next to, or worse, underneath the primary lines such as the area at the 7.5-mile marker near Capitol Hill," he added.

CUC has three power plants on Saipan, with a total of 21 diesel engine units. Of these units, only five are nonfunctional and undergoing repairs and major overhaul.

CUC earlier reported that total power available from three power plants is 53.2 megawatts. Peak load for the year was on September 8 with 42 MW, thus reserve is 11 MW.

Malae admitted that CUC's biggest challenge at present is the disposal of the waste oil accumulated over the years, to guard against any potential threat of a spill into the water.

"We must plan for the worst during a big typhoon," he said.

SAMOA

From Page 1

gency Management Agency, who have been in a high state of preparedness for Typhoon Melor all week. And I want to commend all of the first-responders in the Northern Mariana Islands who have been out repairing electrical lines and taking care of the damage that has occurred."

Sablan said he hopes that being spared any serious damage or loss of life from Typhoon Melor will help the people of the Northern Mariana Islands open their hearts even more to the people of American Samoa.

"I want to pass along the information I have received from FEMA about reunification of families in American Samoa and about how best we can contribute to recovery efforts there," he said.

"People with family in American Samoa should know that the Red Cross has activated their 'Safe and Well' program, which can help you locate your loved ones. Families can register on the Red Cross "Safe and Well" Website at https://disastersafe.redcross.org/ or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to register.

"With respect to material contributions probably the best any of us can do is to provide financial support for the recovery effort. Donating items that have to be shipped takes time and takes away from limited shipping resources going in to Samoa.

"FEMA advises that the best option is to make monetary donations to nonprofit organizations, which are in the best position to know what is most needed in American Samoa and to get it there."

FEMA reports that the American Red Cross has volunteers on the ground in American Samoa providing food and supplies. Financial contributions can be made to the effort by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767), or by visiting www.redcross.org and clicking on the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund link.

Another organization FEMA has identified is the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. For a list of National VOAD members and links to their websites please go to http://www.nvoad.org/.

Questions concerning how to aid relief efforts for American Samoa can also be addressed to Sablan's office on Saipan, 670-323-2647/8, or in Washington, 202-225-2646. ***(PR)***

CDA

From Page 2

multi-million property that needs to be revived, perhaps into a small hotel with a restaurant.

Such restaurant must have some local fusion selections in the menu to attract guests from other hotels.

He also advised CDA to assist would-be buyers in securing contiguous property needed for additional space and parking lots.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan last week bared plans by the government with the Department of Commerce as the lead agency to secure Economic Development Assistance grants to revitalize Gardenia and make it a business incubator that would house the Small Business Development Center and private entrepreneurs.

SEAPORTS

From Page 1

Passengers stranded on island on Friday and Saturday due to the typhoon were seen yesterday lining up at the Saipan International Airport terminal and check-in counters for their rescheduled flights. Passengers of the Continental Airlines were seen waiting for their departure at 1:30pm yesterday.

Lizama said airline companies such as Northwest and Asiana are expected to reschedule their affected flights.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial placed Tinian and Saipan on typhoon condition 1 on Saturday, prompting CPA to shut down all airports operation and activities.

Asiana Airlines cancelled its A321 flight to Incheon last Saturday while Northwest cancelled its NW100 flight.

Lizama said that based on their assessment, CPA noted no major damage to properties and facilities.

Its standby personnel did not also respond to any specific emergency or untoward incidents during the two-day period.

Although the seaports sustained no damage, Lizama said both the Saipan and Tinian seaports will remain closed until such time the assessment is completed by authorities. "These will remain closed until such time that U.S. Coast Guard lifts the order," she said.

Although the U.S. Coast Guard was on island yesterday, the rough water prevented them from conducting the assessment.

Lizama explained that CPA must ensure that buoys are in place to ensure the safe operation of seaport activities. Buoys are channel markers that guide vessels' movements.

Lizama ordered the closure of all seaports on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan on Friday.

Prior to the closure order on Friday, four vessels that were scheduled to arrive on Saipan were asked to reschedule their arrival to this week.

TYPHOON

From Page 1

59 miles north—on Saturday at 6pm, according to the Emergency Management Office.

At this time, no watches and warning are in effect in the CNMI.

Before Melor, Super Typhoon Choi-Wan also missed Saipan by just a few degrees on Sept. 15. Its center passed directly over Alamagan, packing 150 to 160 miles per hour winds.

As of 2pm yesterday, Typhoon Melor was gaining strength and had turned into a super typhoon, with 165 miles per hour winds. Its center was already 300 miles west-northwest of Saipan and Tinian, and 300 miles west-southwest of Agrihan.

John Takai Camacho, EMO geophysical seismic technician/supervisor, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that there were no reports of typhoon-related injuries and damage to property on Saipan and Tinian.

As of 11am, all evacuees at the seven designated shelters on Saipan had already returned to their homes, he said.

On Saturday, a total of 547 persons fled to designated shelters on Saipan. On Tinian, no one was brought to the designated shelter.

Fortunately for the CNMI, when Melor approached Saipan and Tinian, its speed also changed, Camacho said.

"The speed slowed more northwest. When the forward speed picked up like 10 to 14 miles, it went down west northwest," Camacho said.

From 140mph on Friday, Melor's maximum sustained winds dropped to 130mph as it moved near Saipan and Tinian Saturday afternoon.

Strong winds and heavy rains began pouring on Saipan and Tinian at 4pm Saturday. But only a few trees fell and no major flooding occurred. Department of Public Safety officers quickly removed fallen branches from highways and minor roads.

On Saturday, gasoline stations and stores shut down operations. Yesterday, most establishments resumed operations in the morning.

Woman cries foul in OAG's dismissal of case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An accountant is sorely disappointed with the Office of the Attorney General for not informing her when it moved to dismiss a criminal case against a woman who allegedly assaulted her inside her apartment in 2008.

Yolanda Prado Villa, 27, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said she learned on Wednesday that the case against Lorelie Balayo Payoc was dismissed on Monday.

Villa said she called the OAG Criminal Division to follow up on the case but a staff told her the Superior Court had already dismissed it at the recommendation of assistant attorney general George Hasselback.

"I was so disappointed, I could not stop crying to the OAG staff. It is just so unfair. I am a victim in this case and yet they talked to the defendant, instead of talking to me. This is discrimination," she said.

Villa said she has all the evidence—medical report, police report, and even photos of her injuries.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from Hasselback but he said Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham would respond.

Buckingham admitted to *Saipan Tribune* Friday that Villa was indeed not notified about the dismissal of the case against Payoc.

"On behalf of the Office of the Attorney General, I humbly offer an apology. In this case, the individual [Villa] was not notified," Buckingham said.

Villa said that during the assault that occurred in the morning of Aug. 9, 2008, she was still weak after having just given birth to her baby a month before.

"I was doing laundry inside my apartment room when Payoc came and started hitting and scratching me. She was holding keys that resulted in a cut on my upper lip," she said.

Villa said Payoc was looking for her husband, but at that time he was not in her apartment.

Villa said she was new on Saipan then and Payoc's husband had represented himself as a single, unmarried guy.

She said after she delivered her baby, Payoc's husband became cold and eventually abandoned her and their child.

"I have nobody to hold on. I'm alone on this island. I'm raising my baby by myself. My parents always told me that no one has the right to assault me," said Villa, crying.

The OAG charged Payoc with assault and battery, and criminal trespass in December 2008.

A check with court records show that the hearing held Monday, Sept. 28, was about Payoc's motion that she be given a temporary work authorization.

Hasselback informed the court about his motion to dismiss, saying he will not be able to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo dismissed the case with prejudice and ruled that Payoc's motion for a TWA "is now moot."

Dismissal with prejudice means the case cannot be reopened.

Buckingham said Hasselback went to court that day expecting to have a hearing about whether or not Payoc would get a work permit. During the proceeding, the issue of dismissal came up, Buckingham said.

He said the prosecutor had previously stated that the case might be dismissed. Hasselback asked the judge to dismiss the case without prejudice, which means the case can be reopened. In this case, Govendo decided to require that the case be dismissed with prejudice, Buckingham said.

"When we bring a prosecution, we have the burden of proof to establish guilt beyond any reasonable doubt. The defendant is presumed innocent," he said.

Buckingham said in this case, the prosecutor reviewed the evidence and determined that the OAG could not, at this time, meet that burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

"The judgment is one a prosecutor needs to make. But the victim should know beforehand about this decision and the reason why. That was not done in this case and that was an error," he said.

He said this is not discrimination but the judgment of the prosecutor.

Man who stole items from CHC room gets 18 months

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a prison term of one year and six months on a man who broke into a patient's room at the Commonwealth Health Center and stole several items.

Wiseman sentenced Calvin A. Fitial to five years in prison, all suspended except for 18 months, for burglary.

Following a plea agreement, the judge gave the 29-year-old Fitial credit for the 96 days he had already served in jail.

Fitial's release date is Sept. 16, 2010.

After completing the sentence, Fitial will be placed on supervised probation for three years and six months.

Wiseman required Fitial to perform 100 hours of community service and pay a $100 fine and $25 court assessment fee.

The judge waived Fitial's community work service in exchange for obtaining a GED or its equivalent.

If he completes the first term of a GED program while in prison, Fitial will be released after having served a period of at least six months in prison. Any remaining time will be suspended.

In May 2009, police arrested Fitial for burglary, theft, forgery, theft by deception, and theft of service.

On May 11, 2009, Fitial allegedly stole three First Hawaiian Bank credit cards and other items from the room of a patient at CHC. He allegedly used the cards to buy items from stores.

Fitial entered a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to burglary. The other charges were dismissed. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Sablan offers condolences to A. Samoa

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), speaking on the floor of the House of Representatives, has offered the condolences of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to the people of American Samoa. The U.S. territory was struck by a series of tsunamis last week triggered by undersea earthquakes.

Sablan

Sablan came to the floor during what was to have been an hour set aside to discuss health care reform. But Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), who was managing the health care discussion, allowed Sablan time to speak about the tragedy in Samoa.

"I come to the floor today," Sablan said, "hoping to raise the awareness of this House to the challenges our fellow Pacific islanders and fellow Americans now face in American Samoa.

"And I hope that this House and the federal government as a whole will respond as Americans traditionally do, when any community in our nation is struck by natural disaster, with every possible aid and assistance to help American Samoans rebuild."

Sablan noted that the people of the Pacific, though remote from each other, still feel themselves to be part of one family.

"I do not speak metaphorically," Sablan said. "Some in my own family have relatives in American Samoa and our islands are home to many American Samoans. They are school principals. They are program administrators. They are utility engineers. They are neighbors. They are friends. They are family.

"And they fill a vital and much appreciated role in the life of the Northern Mariana Islands."

As federal response teams began arriving in Samoa to aid the recovery, Sablan himself was keeping an anxious eye on Typhoon Melor, which posed a direct threat to his own islands.

Sablan has participated in teleconferences with Federal Emergency Management Agency officials throughout the week as Melor has grown from a tropical storm to a full-blown typhoon, packing winds of 140 mph. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber meeting on Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its general membership meeting this Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret. The Chamber has invited all of the Saipan mayoral candidates to address members and explain their platforms.

The Saipan mayoral candidates are Roman C. Benavente, Antonio M. Camacho, Juan S. Demapan, Donald Glenn Flores, Jose DLG. Sanchez, Candido B. Taman, Lino S. Tenorio, Marian DLG. Tudela, and Angelo O. Villagomez

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for general public. ***(PR)***

Chamber golf tourney set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Second Annual Golf Tournament is on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Lao Lao West. It will be a two-person scramble format. Early registration fee is $95 per person, which includes green fee and entrance to the post-tournament banquet. There will also be a raffle at the banquet.

Proceeds from the tournament help support the Chamber's educational endeavors throughout the year, including the annual scholarship awards for deserving high school seniors.

Tickets are available at the Chamber office or from any member of the board of directors. ***(PR)***

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‘Don’t extend investor visa waiver beyond 2014’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s proposed CNMI E-2 investor visa regulations are “comprehensive, flexible, and perfect for the future of the CNMI,” and the visa waiver should not be extended beyond the end of the transition period in 2014.

This is according to Ron Hodges, a school teacher, a workers’ rights activist and a businessman who is one of the only four entities who have so far commented on DHS’s proposed investor rule.

Oct. 14 is the deadline for submitting comments.

Another investor, Steven O. Lim, said applying U.S. standards of continuous residence and physical presence should be done beginning on Nov. 28 and not be considered retroactive.

Nov. 28 is the start of transition to federal immigration pursuant to Public Law 110-229.

“It is noted that the current proposed rules do not provide a viable long-term solution for investors who are non-treaty nationals to maintain their investor status within the CNMI that intend to maintain their equivalent status under U.S. immigration regulations. All are simply advised to seek other existing immigrant or non-immigrant statuses that they may qualify for. Non-treaty nationals do not have the option to apply for a standard E visa as these are only available to citizens of treaty nations,” Lim said.

He said the net effect for investors who are non-treaty nationals is that those who cannot increase their investment to a much higher level to satisfy the standards of U.S. immigration authorities will ultimately lose their investor status beginning 2015, and along with it the benefit of permanent residence gained during the period of CNMI immigration control.

‘Upgrade quality of investors’

Hodges said DHS’s proposed regulations address all the CNMI’s concerns with security, dependence on foreign labor, guarantees to increase the standard of living and quality of life for local citizens, reducing the criminal element residing here, will reduce “ice” and other contraband shipped through the CNMI, will open opportunity for local young people by upgrading the quality of investors, and will guarantee that the control and governance of the islands will rest with local citizens.

Hodges, who is also the owner of A1 Real Estate and a licensed real estate broker in the CNMI, said the Northern Marianas “absolutely needs investors who have paid the minimum U.S. requirements for visa eligibility.”

“I would not support extending the 2014 deadline for investor compliance to U.S. law. We need an economy where foreign investors and workers don’t send their money abroad, but keep it here. Wiping the remnants of the garment industry away will pave the way for more affluent investors and tourists who reside here out of love for the natural beauty of these islands and the friendly laid back nature of its inhabitants,” he added.

He called on the Legislature to focus on local issues to improve aesthetics, infrastructure, and business climate.

Among other things, he recommended prioritizing projects such as the proposed Beach Road revitalization, beautification and cleanup, seeking funding for the water crisis, addressing canine concerns, ending the land alienation debacle which has stifled progress, and improving the tax code to attract wealthy investors that will employ locals and contribute to the community.

“I would like to thank members of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for such a thorough and well thought out set of regulations,” he added.

There are some 500 long-term foreign investors in the CNMI.

Lim said as a percentage of the overall population of the CNMI, the estimated 500 long-term investors may not be substantial, but in terms of their impact and contribution to the economy of the Northern Marianas, their significance far exceeds their numbers.

He said a large majority of investors in the CNMI have made legitimate investments in various types of businesses, whether from treaty or non-treaty nations.

“Despite the very difficult economic climate in the CNMI, they have stuck it out; the CNMI economy would be in far worse condition than it currently is in should foreign investors choose to pull out their investments,” he said.

He added that although the ultimate concern of a homeland security office is the safety and security of its citizens within its physical jurisdiction, the unique situation of immigration control being taken over by the United States from the CNMI affects much more than just safety and security.

“The impact of new regulations on the long-term foreign investors cannot be stressed enough, especially given the current economic climate. We hope that there can be changes or additions made to the proposed regulations before they are finalized, those that will allow investors to stay in the CNMI beyond the transition period and which will protect their investments,” Lim added.

Saipan Tribune published the first two comments on DHS’s proposed investor rule early this week.

DHS’ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued the proposed regulations on Sept. 15, and the comment period expires on Oct. 14.

The proposed special status of E-2 investors would allow eligible CNMI investors to remain in the CNMI for the duration of the transition period under E-2 CNMI investor status.

At the end of the transition period, E-2 CNMI investors and qualifying spouses and children must qualify for and obtain an appropriate immigrant or non-immigrant status under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to remain in the CNMI or to enter the CNMI after departure.

A copy of the proposed rules is available online at http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#docketDetail?R=USCIS-2008-0035.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

Oct. 5, 1999

Ferry service resumes

Tinian Shipping, represented by lawyer Anthony Long, yesterday paid the court $800,000 representing the loan payment which the company is obligated to pay to Debis Financial Inc. every six months. The court will turn over the amount of $753,270. to Carlsmith Ball Trust Account to be made available to Debis Financial’s attorney, David Ledger. Munson also told the Marshal and the court custodian, Allied Marine Surveyors, to continue monitoring the operation of vessels “until further order.”

Teno not keen on piecemeal budget

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio appeared reluctant to support a proposal in the Legislature to pass piecemeal budget for the government scholarship and medical referral programs as he noted that appropriations for other departments and agencies would have to face drastic cuts. He said the administration needs to meet other financial obligations, like mounting utility bills and retirement contributions, which also must be part of the fiscal budget now under review by lawmakers. “We have to make sure that when you increase the allotment advise, when you increase the department (funding), you have to find a way where to reduce the budget (from other agencies),” Tenorio told reporters yesterday.

Oct. 5, 2000

Increase lobbying in Washington

The Northern Marianas government must continue to increase its exposure in Washington to stave off criticisms and thwart attempts that will imperil the islands’ economic survival, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial told businessmen yesterday. Noting CNMI’s control over its fate is under fire in the nation’s capital, he said the island government should not just depend on outside experts and its friends in the U.S Congress if it wants to ensure economic growth. “Because we haven’t been pursuing our own best interests very well of the late, we need to regain focus and move forward,” Mr. Fitial said at the monthly meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce held at the Hyatt Regency.

Chamber asks: Where will the money come from

Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Lynn Knight yesterday warned that any forced increase in minimum wage would force businesses to shut down and lay off workers. Ms. Knight was reacting to the move of eight Democrats in the U.S. Congress to include the CNMI in the planned $1 minimum wage increase claiming the Northern Marianas has been given enough time to comply with the federal standards since it joined the U.S. political family 14 years ago. The House of Representatives will pass a resolution today asking the U.S. Congress to exclude the Northern Marianas in the planned federal minimum wage increase because it will send the CNMI government to bankruptcy.

Oct. 5, 2001

Work hour reduction requests flood Labor

A day after terrorist attacks dawned on the US, local businesses filing for work hour reduction requests piled up at the Division of Labor, in what appears to be an instant reaction to anticipated revenue shortfalls amid the swelling economic crisis. Labor Director Gil San Nicolas yesterday confirmed that as early as September 12, a big number of locally-based companies have started submitting their work-hour reduction requests. Government records show that some 33 businesses on island sought to reduce the standard 40 working hours per week to an average of 32 hours last month.

US recession hurts local garment sector

The Saipan apparel manufacturing industry has started feeling the pinch of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the US, as orders from mainland buyers have dropped. Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Richard Pierce said the ripple effect of the terror-scare in the United States is beginning to take its toll, affecting not only the Commonwealth’s economy in general but slowly reeling against existing industries. The impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks leads America to impending recession, Pierce said, adding that it has taken a tremendous toll on the local garment production sector. He said the terrorist attacks have adversely impacted consumer confidence in the mainland US, which, in turn, resulted in lower apparel orders from now until mid-2002.

Hafadai honors Igitol for 21-year service

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hafadai Beach Hotel has honored Pete Igitol for his pioneering contribution to the growth of Saipan's first high-rise hotel.

Igitol has retired as secretary of the board of directors for the Saipan Hotel Corp., which operates Hafadai. The owner and president of the corporation, Katsutoshi Nagayama, came all the way from Japan to personally hand over the plaque of appreciation and congratulatory message to Igitol.

Nagayama also presented Igitol with a $10,000 check in gratitude for his huge contribution to the corporation.

"I'm really proud and happy to be honored," said Igitol. "This is the first time I have known a president of a big company come all the way down to personally extend his appreciation."

Nagayama recalled that Igitol helped the corporation overcome many hurdles during the initial stage of establishing the hotel on island. "[He] helped us a lot," Nagayama said.

Igitol said it took him two months to accept the invitation to work with the hotel, back in 1988.

"I had to convince my wife and asked the advice of friends about leaving Continental Airlines," he said.

He recalled that they started Hafadai with 50 rooms. After a recent major renovation, Hafadai now offers a total of 440 rooms.

Hafadai's primary market is Japan but they are also able to penetrate the Korean and Chinese markets. The company is also beginning to explore the Russian market, and Igitol hopes that China and Russia will be included in the visa waiver program.

"We still hope that the Homeland Security will reconsider this," he said.

Although the reduction in the number of flights from Japan had had a big impact on their business, Nakayama said the company will continue to invite guests from Japan "and we will have to reduce cost if necessary and intensify our promotion and hope to increase our sales."

Although he's leaving, Igitol said he will continue to check on Hafadai, adding that Nagayama had asked him to serve on a part-time basis as member of the board.

"I am definitely leaving but I still make it a point to visit here and see what I can do to help the company," said Igitol, who is now 72.

His family will settle in the U.S. mainland, where his son will be attending college at the Portland State University in Oregon. A daughter also lives there.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Saipan Hotel Corp. owner/president Katsutoshi Nagayama congratulates Pete Igitol who served as a member of the board of directors for the past 21 years during a simple ceremony Friday at the mezzanine of the hotel's twin towers.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Maila Kothiemer, front center, who is celebrating her special day today, Oct. 5, 2009! Greetings come from your FHP Saipan family.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

This year in Geneva

The Obama administration's first formal diplomatic encounter with Iran had much in common with the Bush administration's last one. On July 19, 2008, Undersecretary of State William Burns joined officials from five other nations in Geneva as they presented Iranian representative Saeed Jalili with a proposal they called "freeze for freeze." On Thursday Burns, now representing the Obama administration, joined the same five governments in the same city with the same Iranian official — and once again "freeze for freeze" was on the table.

The proposal calls for Iran to stop expanding its uranium enrichment operations for six weeks in exchange for a halt in sanctions action by the U.N. Security Council; during that time the two sides would discuss a full suspension of Iranian enrichment in exchange for the negotiation of a package of economic benefits and security guarantees.

In July of last year, Iran refused to respond to the offer, instead proposing extensive talks on a wide range of issues. Two weeks later, facing a deadline, Tehran turned down the freeze plan. At Thursday's meeting Jalili once again proposed talks on a menu of issues and offered no response to the freeze idea. Another meeting was scheduled for later this month. But there's no reason to believe that Iran's response to the international offer — then as now, accompanied by the threat of new sanctions — will be any different.

The Obama administration did alter the Bush administration's approach somewhat, by initiating a half-hour bilateral meeting between Burns and Jalili that covered the nuclear proposal as well as other issues, including human rights. And officials pointed to a couple of developments that could lower tensions over Iran's program in the short term. One was the regime's agreement to admit international inspectors into the uranium enrichment plant, its second, that it disclosed last week, after its discovery by Western intelligence agencies. Tehran had to make that concession to avoid a complete rupture with International Atomic Energy Agency and the Security Council's permanent members.

More intriguing was Iran's reported acceptance, in principle, of a proposal under which most of the uranium that Iran has already enriched would be processed by Russia and France for use in a nuclear medical research reactor that Iran has possessed for decades. Considering that the Iranian stockpile had grown large enough to supply the core of a nuclear bomb if it were further enriched, that diversion could lower, for a while, the level of international alarm about how close Iran may be to producing a weapon.

Administration officials say such practical confidence-building measures are an improvement over the standoff between Iran and the West during the last year. In that they are right. But it remains the case that the international coalition is in the position of offering proposals that have been previously rejected and hoping for a different answer. Last year the Bush administration threatened new sanctions if Iran rejected the freeze proposal, but then was unable to deliver. The Obama administration now suggests the same consequences if the new talks fail. We can all hope it will be more successful if its bluff is called.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

The CNMI as the sleeping Food Basket of the Pacific

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The CNMI has all the resources to become the food basket of the Pacific. However we are sleeping on this great industry called agriculture without realizing its great potential.

Before the Second World War, the CNMI had over 40,000 acres under cultivation. After the war we continued to feed all the military and civilian population. Saipan had coffee and cacao plantations while Rota grew vegetables in sufficient quantity to export to Guam. Tinian had a flourishing livestock industry.

Gradually we turned our backs on agriculture and preferred to import most of our food. For various reasons, we lost interest in farming and in grazing livestock. Now we import much of our fresh vegetables, fruits, eggs, chickens, and meat. Yet we could grow most of what we need locally. Instead we prefer to export our money and wonder why we are short of it.

We have so much untilled land on Rota, Tinian and Saipan that if we were to farm it, we could not only feed ourselves but also become a major exporter of our produce and fruits. Unfortunately many of us do not realize the wealth lying fallow under our feet.

Meanwhile we go chasing after rainbows named investors to bail us out. We fail to realize that investors do not create wealth for the CNMI. They create wealth only for themselves. But agriculture is an industry that we can control and benefit from. It will bring us prosperity with pride.

The U.S military in Guam has wanted to buy produce and fruits from us for a long time. However we have failed to sell them anything. But the picture is slowly changing. It is not necessary to wait for the military buildup. The market is already waiting for us to supply it now.

The military market is a large one. The military commissaries are only a part of the entire market. Think of all the troops in Guam that have to eat everyday. Consider all the troops in Korea and Japan that need fresh vegetables and fruits. The size of these markets is staggering. But what do we have to do to develop an agriculture industry?

The first thing is to gather all the people who are interested in farming. Make an assessment of the types, quantity and quality of produce and fruits we can grow in the CNMI. In other words we need someone to organize and motivate us to develop the agriculture industry. Frankly speaking a cooperative organization is not the best way to do it. There would be too much infighting and selfish interests. Someone must become the buyer of all the produce and arrange for shipments. This is not a difficult thing to do.

By our efforts we can out-produce Guam. Many landowners in Guam are turning away from farming because of different opportunities. As a result Guam is farming less and importing more. Yet we stand by, not realizing the opportunity that awaits us. The farmers and CRESS of the Northern Marianas College must come together and act promptly on this industry or we will lose the opportunity.

While discussing the agriculture industry we should also explore the floriculture industry. By raising flowers we can really boost our economy in addition to the standard produce and fruit products.

Consider cut flowers! Today the global trade is over $100 billion! We have an ideal year-round climate for various flowers that sell at a high premium. The next time you buy flowers, check the prices and where they are imported from. To name only a few of the countries that are currently major exporters: Ecuador, Columbia, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, South Africa, Korea, China, Australia, Thailand and Malaysia. Why can't we also enter this lucrative market?

Japan and the U.S. would be great markets as possible importers. For example, the United States imports over 79 percent of its flowers. Can you imagine flying planeloads of cut flowers to America or Japan? What a lucrative business and all grown and controlled by us!

Several years ago one of the poorest provinces in China began to grow flowers for export. Most of the people had no jobs or income. As a result they became motivated to raise flowers for export. Today this one province in China exports over $450 million annually. A true story of rags-to-riches by selling flowers!

One of the main flowers we can grow year-round here are orchids. The island of Rota would be an ideal place. Our climate and soil allows us to take advantage of several crops a year compared to countries with a changing climate resulting in a shorter growing season.

There is not enough room here to fully discuss the potentials of this over $100 billion industry. Floriculture, along with agriculture, is another one of our sleeping giant industries that we can cultivate with pride and profitability.

As I drive around Saipan, I notice all the vacant warehouses that

See THE CNMI on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

My side of the story

I am writing this letter to address the issues contained in the *Saipan Tribune* article "Camacho quits as executive director—CPA board accused of micromanaging-again." The issues and my response follow:

First, Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, executive director of CPA, accused me of "micromanaging" CPA's management. He based his accusation on his misgivings that the meeting agenda for the special board meeting conducted on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, was prepared without his knowledge and consent.

In the first place, Mr. Camacho signed the document that presented the agenda of the Sept. 30th meeting. The notice of the meeting was also signed by Mr. Camacho. This indicated to me that he knew what matters and issues the board wanted to address at the special meeting and when and where the meeting was to take place. (I would hope that Mr. Camacho reviewed all the documents he had been signing since he took the helm to be CPA's executive director. But that is another matter altogether.)

Secondly, meetings of the board—regular and special—are matters for the board to decide. Mr. Camacho's responsibility was to make sure that he and the CPA managers are prepared to discuss in sufficient detail the managerial, operational, financial and legal merits of the matters in the agenda, at the request of the board member during the meeting. If Mr. Camacho needed more time to educate and prepare himself and the managers on the agenda matters, then he could merely ask for more time. For this particular meeting the board did not receive such a request and therefore we proceeded with the meeting.

The CPA enabling law and bylaws place the authority to call board meeting on the chairman of the board of directors, and to a specified extent, on the other voting members of the board. The executive director does *not* call board meetings. Only the board can call for any and all board meetings. Apparently, Camacho had been under the false misgivings that he is authorized to call or order a meeting of the board of directors of CPA.

Mr. Camacho knew, or should have known, what was on the meeting agenda. He knew, or should have known, assuming that he read and had been complying with CPA's enabling law, bylaws, and rules and regulations that only the board can call for a board meeting. In this particular meeting the board did that. If there was interference of any kind, it was Mr. Camacho who wanted to interfere on jurisdictions reserved for the board only and not the executive director, by his assertion that he should be the one calling the board meetings and placing matters of discussion on the agenda. Why he was so upset about the board agenda and the occurrence of the meeting to the extent that he wanted to resign right there and then puzzles me.

I should be the one who should be upset for the lack of management analyses of matters placed in front of the board for my decision.

Mr. Camacho accused me of "micromanaging" the Commonwealth Ports Authority, basing his accusation on my comments regarding two items on the meeting agenda in addition to my comments on the matter discussed above.

There were two items on the meeting agenda that were of critical importance to me—not that the other items were not important. These two were the Fiscal Year 2010 budget for CPA and the unsolicited proposal submitted by a certain company for a ground lease at a specific area at the Saipan seaport. (Being the chairman for the Seaport Committee, it became my responsibility to review this matter.)

The Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

So folks, here we were: A meeting on the last day of FY 2009 (Sept. 30, 2009)—and CPA's management had not presented its board of directors a budget or financing plan for FY 2010. Please keep in mind that FY 2010 was but a day away. The budget package document for FY 2010 was given to me to review *only* a few days ago. To make matters worse, the budget package was severely inadequate in details, and therefore uninformative. I do not understand how any management personnel at any level at CPA expected the board of directors to approve a financing plan for the upcoming fiscal year with essentially only a summary of accounting figures, without justification.

After attempting to review the budget package, I had no more pages of written questions than the number of pages of the package itself. Keep in mind that in keeping my responsibilities as a board member, I swore to exercise due diligence and commit my best effort, so I reviewed the budget as presented by management with my best effort.

I know that CPA is a creation of law. I am also aware that CPA's budget process is contained in CPA's enabling law, Public Law 2-48. I am also well aware that the CNMI government budget is guided by the CNMI Planning and Budgeting Act, Pubic Law 3-68. Furthermore, I am also aware of the CPA bylaws addressing CPA budget matters. Gathering all these resources for guidance, I attempted to review the budget package submitted by CPA management for adoption by the board.

To put it in a nutshell, the executive director is mandated by PL 2-48 with the responsibility to submit to the board a "detailed" budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget package submitted by Mr. Camacho was dismal: replete with errors, lacking justification for significant changes in revenue and expenditure items, has missions to accomplish, no goals to pursue, no plans of action to finance, etc. It did not comply with CPA's law mandating a detailed budget, i.e., a detailed annual financial plan for FY10. I brought these deficiencies to the attention of the board. The board agreed to give the package back to management to prepare an adequate annual financial plan—a budget for FY10. Furthermore, Mr. Camacho failed to realize that the budget is merely a component part of CPA's FY 2010 operating plan. CPA management had never submitted an annual plan of operations for the board to adopt, of which the budget is a component of. Where was the capital improvement plan? Where was the staff training plan? Where was the financial recovery plan? Where was the Passenger Facility Charges Plan? Etc., etc.

The budget package gave me no indication what CPA's goals and objectives are for FY10. What are we trying to accomplish? What are our priorities in capital improvements, bond obligations, personnel skills improvements, pension plan, pending litigations, etc.? Even a small department within the CNMI government submits a better budget than what Mr. Camacho had daringly given us to adopt.

I could not in good conscience exercise my duty as a board member and adopt a budget as submitted by Mr. Camacho. If Mr. Camacho thinks I am merely his rubber stamp, he is completely wrong. If he thinks that I am "micromanaging" CPA or him in particular because I wanted, and continue to want, to make informed decisions; if he thinks that I will ignore CPA's laws so that he can be given a free hand to run CPA at his own volition; if he thinks I will remain silent even though after having been given a whole year he has yet to submit a financial recovery plan; if he thinks I will remain silent even though he has yet to comply with several statutory mandates on his position as executive director, if he thinks I will continue to put up with his constant request for a salary increase, he is wrong.

If he wants me to keep a total "hands-off" practice, I will be glad to do so as soon as he accomplishes what conscientious and concerned board members expects him to accomplish, as mandated by CPA law. But as long as he has not done so, I will continue to ask him or any other manager to do the work they are hired to do.

Unsolicited proposal to enter into a ground lease at Saipan seaport

I attempted to review this package expecting CPA management to have prepared and submitted for board review various analyses on the financial, operational, managerial, and legal merits of the proposal. *Nada*. Perpetuating his practice of not preparing and submitting to the board for review *management reports* on the various proposals or requests given to the board for adoption at board meetings, Mr. Camacho did not submit any management report at all for this proposal. No one has done the math, no one has done the legal analysis and issue a legal memo on the proposal, no one had done rental-rate review, no one has taken the proposal's request to determine the level of feasibility, no one has done a "best-use" write-up for the subject land area; no one has done a prospective timeline on CPA side, etc. These are typical management review, analyses, and study that must be submitted to the board so the board can make informed decisions based on management study and recommendations. What are the alternatives? What do we have as counter-proposals?

I do not think that it is unreasonable and over-reaching to expect any of the above work from Mr. Camacho and his staff. I do not think it is "micromanaging" management if I ask them to prepare management studies on matters for the board to decide. It is an integral part of management's job. And I expect management to do its job. So far, under Mr. Camacho, management has fallen very short in doing his job.

Just because some people say to him "Good job, *pare*" does not mean that he really is doing a good job. At least not according to good management practices and CPA's legal mandate.

Benigno M. Sablan
Member, CPA board of directors
Tanapag, Saipan

Out!

Sorry Ambrose, but three strikes and you're out!

1. From what you have written, you do not have a degree in administration, you have not taken the PRAXIS test, and you have no experience as an acting principal. Strike one.

2. Your experience is impressive—but it is not public education and does not count for proper credentials. Strike two.

3.Your activism in education will not qualify you either—it is like playing the race card here in the mainland. Strike three.

Foul ball, Ambrose. You, as a teacher, managed to get yourself appointed as teachers' representative to the PSS Board—*you were in that position to work for the teachers*. You were never on the school board, which requires public election. If you were a teachers' rep and a board member at the same time, that would be a conflict of interest. You cannot be an employee and a member of management at the same time.

May I suggest you go online and complete your education, take your PRAXIS test, and then you will have an argument to present to PSS.

Franklin Keiper
Mayer, Arizona

THE CNMI

From Page 10

were formerly garment factories now deserted. A profitable use for these vacant warehouses is to grow mushrooms in them. Yes, mushrooms!

Checking to see if our climate is ideal, I was told by an agriculture professor at CRESS that Saipan would be an ideal place to grow them because of the humid weather year-round and other ideal conditions. There are various varieties of mushrooms that we could grow. We could export them fresh or if the quantity becomes large, we could set up a cannery for them.

Next time you go to the market check out the prices for mushrooms both fresh and in a can. The Chinese have been growing mushrooms for over 1,000 years. The world has adopted mushrooms as a delicacy in fine cooking. Don't overlook mushroom growing as an industry in the CNMI!

Agriculture and floriculture do not require big investments. Both of these huge and profitable industries lie within almost all of our investment range. In addition, the U.S. is offering huge amounts of grants for these types of industries. And we surely qualify. What we need most of all is drive and determination to cultivate our dormant soil into these two prosperous industries. Again, all we need is determination and a strong desire to become prosperous again.

As I have repeatedly written about in previous articles, the CNMI is a land of unfulfilled opportunities. We need not go on food stamps. We need not beg investors to come and save us. Also while developing an agriculture and floriculture industry, we can retain much of our culture while becoming prosperous. At the same time we can continue to develop our tourist market.

Think of it this way. Tourism spreads the word about how beautiful our islands and ocean are. To grow, tourism needs buildings and recreation centers coupled with heavy investment from outsiders. However agriculture and floriculture spreads our products worldwide with a small investment from each of us. The land stays in our hands and so do the profits.

It is estimated that by 2025 our world population will surge to eight billion people. This estimate is the major driver of increased food demand. Prices have already begun to skyrocket on certain food items as they become scarce with an increased demand for them.

We must consider what prices we are going to pay if we continue to import all that we do today. By not planning for this shortage we are planning for failure. Yes, a carefully planned agriculture industry can both supply most of our fresh food while bringing money into our economy from our exports.

Let's seriously consider these industries and give them a genuine try. These industries also will balance our economy along with tourism. And they will be created with pride. There is nothing more gratifying than to savor success gained with the sweat of our brow and the labor of our hands. Yes, tourism coupled with agriculture and floriculture can be the salvation of our depressed economy. Think about it.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

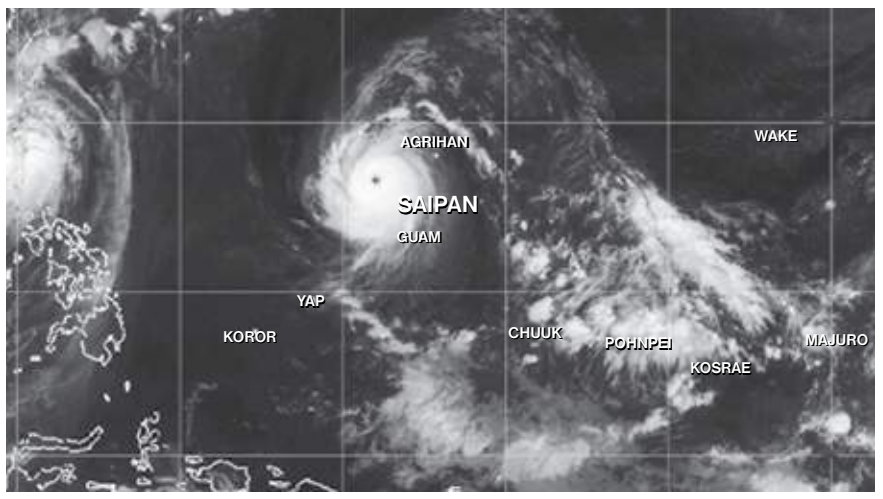
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲85	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Sunny	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲75	▼50
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼73
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼48
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼56
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼44
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼56
Osaka	Cloudy	▲65	▼59
Paris	Showers	▲59	▼53
Pusan	Cloudy	▲71	▼47
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Salem	Sunny	▲65	▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67	▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲65	▼41
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲62	▼58
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼57

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Super Typhoon Melor (20W) is centered northwest of Saipan near 17N142E moving west at 16 mph with maximum sustained winds of 165 mph. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the center. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are embedded within spiral bands up to 250 miles of the center. For more information on typhoon Melor, see National Weather Service advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ34 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN34 PGTW. A monsoon trough extends eastward from 15N130E to Super Typhoon Melor at 17N142E then southeastward to just east of Kosrae at 5N165E and finally eastward to beyond 180 at 6N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are northeast of Chuuk and southwest of Wake Island and between Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro. This area is bounded by a line from 17N158E to 7N171E to 6N157E to 12N151E back to 17N158E. Convergent monsoon winds from the west are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap within 30 miles of a line from 9N141E to 7N144E and also within 75 miles of a line from 5N145E to 1N149E near the equator south of a line from 1N151E to 1N156E and just southwest of Kosrae within 75 miles of a line from 1N159E to 4N162E. A surface trough situated just west of the date line extends from 10N177E northward to 15N177E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms cover an area between 11N and 14N from 174E to 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:06 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:21 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:19 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:51 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:32 PM	6:38 AM
Tuesday	7:16 PM	7:32 AM
Wednesday	8:05 PM	8:29 AM
Thursday	9:00 PM	9:29 AM
Friday	9:58 PM	10:30 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

America by Rails Part 12: Lone Star Eagle

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Big D is how Dallas, Texas is known. Texas is not called Big T, but it might as well be called that. Everything in Texas not only seem big, they are intentionally big. The state itself is big. I once drove from Texarkana to El Paso, and after two days, I was still in the state! A precondition to joining the Union was the provision that Texas would have the option to split into five states should it so desires.

Amtrak *Lone Star* treks from Chicago to San Antonio, Texas, and on the tail end of my 12-segment 25-day "America by Rails" tour, I got off Longview to catch the bus heading for Houston where I started, to catch my flight back to Saipan at the George H. Bush International Airport. This bus ride is part of the Amtrak deal.

The *Lone Star* itself travels to Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and San Antonio where passengers heading for Los Angeles are hitched to the *Sunset Limited,* our first line on this journey as narrated in the first of this series. Passengers in this last leg heading for Houston, Texas, take a bus while those for Shreveport, Louisiana get a limo.

Longview sits astride State Highway 259 that turns into State Highway 59 South. The bus goes to Nogocdoches, named after a native American tribe, where the Stephen F. Austin University is located, named after one of the state's founding fathers, then edges towns named Diboll, Livingston, Splendora, Roman Forest, New Caney before it hits the eight-lane highway a few miles north of Houston.

Oil pumps aesthetically upgraded from the oil derricks of old are strategically scattered south of Longview, with cattle ranching evident in a few places of the kind that could easily outclass J. R. Ewing's fictional Southfork ranch in the TV series *Dallas*. In fact, I suspect that oil primarily carries the economic resource base of the region, for the cattle ranches look like they are there for the viewing, or as tax shelters for the loaded.

I expected dried bush and brush, particularly the scraggly and short-stemmed mesquites. I was surprised to see tall firs, cedars and pines in forest tree farms evidently there to reclaim land from lignite and iron mines. The grazing areas look like manicured golf courses and the forest farms that replaced the traditional lumber sites look more like movie sets for a Robin Hood Sherwood forest series than as habitat for faunas in the wild.

At least, having seen all the corn and soy bean fields I ever want to see in my lifetime in the Midwest plains and New England farms, it was a viewer's delight not to see a trace of it on Highway 59. Toward Shreveport, Louisiana, to the east are rice fields, but they are not evident in the area southwest of the Sabine River before it joins the mighty Mississippi.

"Big" as a quality of Texas size is unassailable. The fast food outlets, churches, houses, lot sizes, highways, even storage units seem more than just a bit bigger than their counterparts elsewhere. I commented about this to my seatmate Charlie who served with the U.S. Army in Germany. He narrated this story: When the Russians and the Allied forces began occupying Germany, the Ruskies distributed condoms to its troops and share the same with their G.I. counterparts whose Victorian handlers did not anticipate the critical need of the prophylaxis to occupying forces. Looking like rubber material for making hound dog balloons, they were labeled "Russian large." An enterprising G.I. unit sent for a similar commodity that bore the sign, "Texas small." Possibly apocryphal, my new ex-GI acquaintance bellowed a hip-slapping, airwaves-booming, Texas-size guffaw!

The joke would not be welcome in some of the establishments along the way. In addition to the ubiquitous church-related schools in the area were churches who do not hesitate to wear their religious piety up their sleeves, not to mention imposing it on everyone through public policy. Folks of the Southern Baptist variety constitute half of the population, with a scattering of mainline denominations and more than a few independent evangelical and fundamentalist groups. Progressive Christians have done an exodus out of the edifice complex naves.

It is a Sunday morning, and the good folks were going in and out of their temples of worship. My trip culminated in the neighborhood of Joel Osteen's mega-church called Lakewood in Houston, the former Rockets Basketball coliseum. Osteen's message is not short on positive thinking, and his style is nothing but refined salesmanship. The Lone Star State is known for its Christian faithful understanding themselves to be blessed by the abundance of Providential grace in the form of oil and real estate. Those below the poverty line are God's blessed poor!

And for a while, the preeminence of the Caucasoid pedigree dominated the landscape. The influx of former southern cotton field hands, and *mano-a-mano de* Chihuahua Way, not to mention recent additions of the chopstick horde of Han and Mongol extraction, and the fish-and-shrimp crowd from the Indochinese Malay peninsula, the Texas of Davey Crocket and Sam Houston has altered the state's skin coloration.

The flair for freedom and independence is common fare in this state that measures the distance at its southern base between Beaumont and El Paso to be similar to that of New York City to Chicago. There is a lot of diversity between the points, each forcefully asserting its independence and freedom.

The bus showed movies of the *Little Rascals* and their hilarious antics, as well as a Jamie Lee Curtis movie of her Beverley Hill's Chihuahua getting lost down Mexico way. Prominently offered at the sole bus stop at Nogocdoches is Spicy Hot V8 along with hot tamales. Along the highway, a staid looking Covenant Church vie for attention with *Iglesia de Pacto,* the *La Luz del Mundo* beams to the Christian Life Center, while the storefront Love Christian Church is next to Jilliard Billiard Saloon.

Texas secular is just as novel as Texas religious, as gentlemen ranchers would not be without their private clubs advertised through scantily clad cowgirls and their slant-eyed sisters, next to the house that does acrylic nails and across the street from the massage therapy clinic. The Harley-Davidson at Kingwood thrives on the low $2.20 per gallon gas down Humble, Texas.

In this land of open spaces, sprawling cemeteries and memorial parks, going green might be today's politically correct language, and small might be beautiful in the ecotopia of the northwest and New England's havens from nor'easters, but big is definitely wonderful in Texas of the Southwest, excelling in the virtues of divine abundance and godly excess.

Texas thinks of itself as representative America. Its cognitive brain centers particularly in the medical and pharmaceutical fields and aerospace research are well known. Of equal notoriety, if not more so, are its cowboys and cowgirls with their boots line dancing in the barn, and tailgate-partying at numerous football stadia, its new secular religion. There is no shortage of the head trips of its technology and the heart trips of its country music. The image of the Texas ranger as martial arts' capable, and the rising popularity of grace and dance-like moves in international football (soccer) moving into the organized bullying of America's Team, might very well redeem the Texas soul. Redemption and transformation after all is a language understood by the howdy folks of this bioregion, and though marketed as a microcosm of the heartbeat of America, it is also a distinct Eagle all to its own.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DOF-005

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 3, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009** AT **10:00 A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION CONFERENCE ROOM** LOCATED IN DAN DAN. **ALL QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME OCTOBER 23, 2009** TO MR. JOE I. QUITUGUA, DIRECTOR OF EDP, VIA E-MAIL TO finedp01@pticom.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-1115.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DOC-001

OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2009 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/S/ **DOLORES M. SAN NICOLAS**
COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System's Human Resources shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2009-055**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **ARCHITECT / ENGINEER (Amendment)**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00**
Opening Date: **Sept. 24, 2009** Closing Date: **October 8, 2009**
Location: **PSS – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from US accredited college or university with a BA degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering, or related field, and must be CNMI Licensed, plus at least three (3) years experience in construction management, architecture, or related field.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Samoans prepare to bury tsunami victims

By AUDREY McAVOY and ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

AP

Emergency workers carry a body found along Samoa's southeast coast at Lalomanu Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009, after a deadly tsunami rolled through several South Pacific island nations on Tuesday.

LEONE, American Samoa (AP)—Taitasi Suapaia Fitiao is preparing for every parent's nightmare—burying her young child.

Her 6-year-old daughter, Vaijoresa, was ripped from her arms as an enormous wave from Tuesday's tsunami swept them up. As she floated away, out of reach, Vaijoresa pleaded, "Mom, please."

"I just can't believe that she's gone. At such a young age, you know? No parent should have to bury their child. It's supposed to be the other way around," Taitasi Fitiao said Saturday while sitting on her front porch next to a shrine to her daughter.

She said she just hopes her daughter didn't suffer too much pain.

It's difficult talking about it too, but Taitasi said she wants the world to know how beautiful Vaijoresa was.

Painful stories are heard with heartrending frequency these days in American Samoa and neighboring Samoa, where tsunami waves roared ashore after an earthquake with a magnitude of up to 8.3 in the Pacific Ocean, killing at least 176 people.

The figure could rise with at least eight people on Samoa still missing. Also, an AP photographer on Saturday saw a body pulled from rubble at the devastated Samoan village of Lalomanu that apparently wasn't listed in the official death toll. Officials could not immediately be contacted.

A national prayer service for victims and survivors is scheduled for Sunday at the headquarters of the Congregational Christian Church of America Samoa, the largest religious denomination in the U.S. territory.

Territorial Gov. Togiola Tulafono said Saturday the service will bring the community together in the aftermath of the disaster.

In Samoa, scores of grieving people made a heartbreaking decision Saturday to sign over victims of the tsunami to the state for burial rather than take them back to ravaged villages for traditional funerals.

Government ministers told a congregation of 100 village and family leaders in a traditional wallless Samoan meeting house that the state would carry the costs of mass graves of up to 20 in a new cemetery in the capital Apia on Thursday following a memorial service in a nearby sports stadium.

The proposition was voluntary and the government will consider financial assistance to grieving relatives who elect to take their loved ones home.

Government minister Fiana Naomi said she expected about half of Samoa's 135 victims would be buried there.

Tears welled in her eyes as she told The Associated Press that the mass funeral was a radical departure from Samoan tradition.

But she said many of the village homes near where the relatives would traditionally be buried were gone and might not be replaced.

"It's very different, but it's very unusual circumstances," she said.

"The government sees the devastated areas, there are no buildings there, some villages might be relocated, people have lost everything and they can't hold ceremonies in the usual ways, she said.

"Usually they're very large communal ceremonies, but this is memorializing this event to serve as a constant reminder to us that we need to be prepared for natural disasters," she added.

Some leaders were concerned about the bodies remaining for so long in the city's overcrowded morgue.

Ben Taufua, who buried nine members of his family in the hills above Lalomanu on Wednesday and Thursday, said he was unhappy that some of them were inadequately chilled in a commercial cooler.

"Eight members of my family were found on the first day. When we went to pick up the bodies, they were worse than the bodies that were just found 48 hours later," he told AP with tears in his eyes. "It was very, very sad."

Faisimalo John Muaitau, a resident of Apia, said his family had agreed to bury their three victims in the new cemetery.

"It wasn't an easy decision," Muaitau said. "But we feel that what the government is doing is making a memorial for them and that is a good thing."

The village of Leone, the center of Christianity on American Samoa, was a bleak landscape of rubble. The beach meeting houses that had been the center of cultural rituals and family meetings were destroyed. An overturned van was jammed into the roof of one beach house.

Leone residents estimate the tsunami destroyed about one-third of the village, which has a population of 3,000. The victims were mostly elderly or toddlers. Four villagers were killed while making crafts on the shore.

Friday will be the day that Taitai buries the youngest of her seven children, the active, playful first-grader who was rushing home from school with two cousins after the earthquake hit. Taitasi saw them on the way and grabbed Vaijoresa just as the wave hit.

The enormous wave, as high as 10 feet and moving some 30 mph according to witnesses, lifted them and carried them inland. Two large trucks sandwiched them, scraping the skin off her right hand and forcing her to lose her grip on her daughter.

Vaijoresa wasn't found until the next morning, even though dozens of villagers helped look.

"I went to search for her, I couldn't find her. Everybody in the village couldn't find her. I didn't know what to do. I just stand there, crying," said her father, Faataui Fitiao.

Taitasi said she's thankful they found her daughter so they can giver her a decent burial.

Vaijoresa's cousin, a girl, was also found dead. A boy cousin, also 6, is still missing.

The family will hold a joint service for the girls on Friday. Another memorial for the boy will be held at the bridge near where he was swept away.

"I'm hanging in there. I have to be strong for my other children and I believe she's in good hands with God," Taitasi said.

The burials come as officials shift their focus from rescuing lives to providing survivors with food, water and power, but they stressed it didn't mean they were giving up on the missing.

Electricity and water services were restored in about half of the affected villages in Samoa and American Samoa, and almost all of the territory was expected to have power from generators within three to five days, said Ken Tingman, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's federal coordinating officer.

But many survivors refused to return to their villages.

"They're scared; a lot of them have been psychologically affected by seeing their relations die in huge numbers," said Taule'alea Laavasa, chairman of the Samoan government's National Disaster Advisory Committee.

The death toll also includes 32 people in American Samoa and nine in Tonga.

Samoa's tourism industry, meanwhile, said it feared a "second tsunami" of vacation cancellations after the deadly waves wiped out some of the South Pacific country's most idyllic white-sand beaches and resorts.

Tourism is Samoa's largest industry, and travel industry representatives visiting the main island's wrecked southeast coast said Friday about one-quarter of the tourist accommodations had been destroyed.

Samoan tourist industry representatives said the damage on the southeast coastline of the main island of Upolu included four resorts and more than 20 family operations that rented simple traditional huts, known as fale.

McGuirk reported from Apia, Samoa. Also contributing were Associated Press writers Fili Sagapolutele in Pago Pago, Tanalee Smith in Adelaide, Australia, and Jaymes Song and Greg Small in Honolulu and AP video journalist Haven Daley in Leone.

AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, an islander walks in the debris on the south coast of Upolu Island of Samoa, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009.

Business

G-7 finance ministers warn recovery 'fragile'

ISTANBUL (AP)—Finance ministers from the Group of Seven rich countries warned the recovery remains "fragile" and tried to talk up the U.S. dollar amid fears it could fall farther and disrupt the global economy.

The officials said in their closing statement after meeting Saturday in Istanbul that decisive moves by governments had improved conditions for the world economy and financial markets.

But they warned against "complacency" since growth prospects remained "fragile" and unemployment continues to rise. Figures on Friday showed the U.S. economy shedding more jobs than expected in September, with unemployment at a 26-year high of 9.8 percent.

They agreed it was too soon to withdraw the stimulus measures such as government deficit spending and rock-bottom interest rates that have helped re-start growth.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the United States will unwind the "extraordinary" policy measures it has taken only when conditions stabilize and growth strengthens.

"Planning for an eventual exit is the responsible and necessary thing to do, but we are not yet in the position where it would be prudent to withdraw fiscal and monetary policy support," Geithner said.

"Exit will not be like flipping a switch," he added.

The Federal Reserve has slashed its key interest rate to near zero percent and pumped over a trillion dollars into the markets to sustain liquidity and free up lending, while the Obama administration enacted a near $800 billion package of spending increases and tax cuts to prop up the economy.

Much of the rest of the world has done likewise and the result has been the faster than expected rebound in growth. Earlier this week, the International Monetary Fund raised its forecast for 2010 global growth to 3.1 percent from 2.5 percent just three months ago, largely because of these stimulus measures.

Though they refrained from mentioning the dollar's recent slide in their joint statement, the ministers sought to talk up the U.S. currency, which has been falling fast over recent weeks. The dollar hit an eight-month low against the yen earlier this week, while the euro clambered up toward year highs.

A weaker dollar boosts U.S. exports but could undermine recoveries in countries that sell to the United States. Policymakers have warned that a dollar crisis is the last thing the world economy needs right now as it looks to recover from its deepest recession since World War II.

Geithner and France's Christine Lagarde stressed the need for a strong dollar.

Geithner said it's "very important for the U.S. that we continue to have a strong dollar," while Lagarde said "we need to have a strong dollar ... volatility is not welcome."

The finance ministers' statement did not mention the dollar's role specifically but said that "excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates have adverse implications for economic and financial stability."

The ministers from the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy met amid questions about the role of the G-7. It has been overshadowed recently by the Group of 20, which includes developing economic powerhouses such as China, India and Brazil.

Last week the leaders of the G-20 agreed that the bigger body would become the world's "premier" economic decision-making forum.

There was no reference to the future of the G-7 in the communique Saturday, but France's Lagarde dismissed talk of its death.

Olympics loss forces Chicago to rethink city plans

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago's dream of an Olympics-sized stimulus was dashed when the 2016 Summer Games were awarded to Rio de Janeiro, and the loss amounts to more than a bruised ego for the nation's third-largest city.

Officials can no longer trumpet the $13.7 billion citywide economic impact local Olympics organizers estimated would come of games-related jobs, construction, tourism and transportation. They'll also have no excuse for distraction in a city grappling with a mounting deficit and violence that has led to dozens of deaths of city teens each year.

The loss marked a stunning defeat for Mayor Richard M. Daley, who spent three years working to sell Chicago residents on the games, often highlighting job creation and a financial influx that would help the city emerge from a recessional slump.

"I just know so many construction workers who thought their next seven years were going to be full of work," said Jane Zefran, 63, a semi-retired Chicago resident. "Now, heavens only knows what will happen. It's such a shame."

Fresh off a plane Saturday from the International Olympic Committee meeting in Copenhagen, Daley said people shouldn't be disheartened about Chicago's future because the city lost the 2016 Summer Games.

"We have a great city," he said. "These are great people. We have a future just as bright as anyone else."

People around town seem doubtful the loss will scar Daley as he mulls whether to seek a seventh term in 2011—at which point he will have 22 years in office and become Chicago's longest-serving mayor.

"I don't think he will be looked at like a loser," said Angela Byrd, 40, a teacher's assistant from Chicago.

Still, a recent Chicago Tribune/WGN poll showed Daley's approval rating had sunk to 35 percent in part because of skepticism over the Olympics and an unpopular deal to lease city parking meters to a private contractor. And the mayor was in Copenhagen as an unwelcome spotlight again shone on his city after a 16-year-old honors student was beaten to death while walking to a bus stop after school.

Administration eyes ways to help laid-off workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is considering steps to ease the burdens of laid-off workers, including possible extensions of unemployment and health benefits, officials said Saturday.

The administration has stopped short of calling for a second economic stimulus package to augment the $787 billion measure approved this year. But with the jobless rate continuing to climb, President Barack Obama said Saturday he is exploring "additional options to promote job creation."

Administration aides said possibilities include:

■ extending enhanced unemployment-insurance benefits beyond Dec. 31, when they are set to expire.

■ extending a tax credit for laid-off workers who buy health insurance through the COBRA program. That program allows workers to keep their company's health insurance plan for 18 months after they leave their job, if they pay the premiums.

■ extending a tax credit for first-time home buyers. This credit also is set to expire soon.

AP

Unemployed worker Davilla Garcia waits for work at the Day Worker Center of Mountain View, in Mountain View, Calif., Friday, Oct. 2, 2009.

The administration has discussed these possibilities with congressional leaders, officials said, but no decisions have been made.

White House economic adviser Lawrence Summers expressed interest in these ideas in an online interview with the Atlantic magazine. "I don't know what the term 'second stimulus package' exactly means," Summers said. "We certainly need to continue to support people who are in need, whether it's unemployment insurance, or a COBRA program that for the first time provides that people who are laid off get supported in being able to maintain their health insurance."

T. rex still looking for home after Vegas auction

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A fossilized Tyrannosaurus rex is still looking for a home after bidders failed to meet the minimum price Saturday at a Las Vegas auction.

But auction house Bonhams & Butterfields is in negotiations with a number of institutions and individuals, and Tom Lindgren, the company's natural history director, said he's confident a sale will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

The auctioneer had hoped bids would top $6 million for the T. rex dubbed "Samson." The highest bid at Saturday's auction at the Venetian hotel-casino was $3.7 million.

Lindgren said the owner had sought to sell the dinosaur as soon as possible, leaving potential bidders scrambling to quickly come up with the money.

"A number of bidders are still trying to get their financing in line," he said. "I think we'll have a home for her pretty soon."

Experts say the 170 fossilized bones discovered about 17 years ago in South Dakota represent more than half the skeleton of a 40-foot-long, 7.5-ton dinosaur that lived 66 million years ago.

A similar T. rex fossil sold for $8.3 million in 1997 and is now housed at the Field Museum in Chicago. That dinosaur, named "Sue," is 42 feet long and has more than 200 bones.

Lindgren said "Samson" is the third most complete T. rex skeleton ever discovered and has the "finest skull" of all T. rexes ever found.

The female dinosaur's lower jaw was found by the son of a rancher in 1987, and the rest of its bones were excavated in 1992, Lindgren said. It was sold twice to private owners and is now owned by an American whom Lindgren wouldn't name.

About 50 other lots fetched $1.76 million Saturday. World records included $458,000 for a duckbilled dinosaur, $440,000 for a pair of Einiosaurus skeletons and $422,000 for a 17-foot-long fossilized fish found in Kansas, Lindgren said.

"This was the most successful auction we've ever had," he said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Paging Dr. Tesla? Automaker to make house calls

NEW YORK (AP)—Taking a cue from house-call services like Best Buy's Geek Squad, electric carmaker Tesla Motors is launching a maintenance plan where mechanics travel to owners' homes or offices to perform repairs and tuneups. Tesla, which makes the $109,000 Roadster electric car, said the plan is convenient for customers who won't have to bring their vehicle to a showroom, while cutting costs by making a large network of Tesla service locations unnecessary. But the service won't be cheap. The carmaker will charge vehicle owners $1 for every roundtrip mile its technicians travel, from showroom to garage, with a minimum charge of $100 per trip.

Regulators close banks in Colorado, Mich., Minn.

NEW YORK (AP)—Regulators have shut Warren Bank in Warren, Mich., and two small banks in Colorado and Minnesota, boosting the number of failed U.S. banks this year to 98 as loan defaults rise in the worst financial climate in decades. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. took over Warren Bank, with about $538 million in assets and $501 million in deposits as of July 31. The Huntington National Bank, based in Columbus, Ohio, agreed to assume the deposits and about $83 million of the assets of the failed bank. The FDIC will retain the remaining assets for later disposition. Warren Bank's six branches will reopen Saturday as offices of Huntington National Bank.

Philips Healthcare recalls 5,400 defibrillators

SEATTLE (AP)—Philips Healthcare said Saturday it is recalling about 5,400 automated external defibrillators after receiving reports of a memory chip failure in a small number of some models that could make them inoperable. The defibrillators are used by emergency responders to help treat sudden cardiac arrest, and the company said it is contacting customers to arrange for the devices to be replaced. The Seatle-based company said it has received no reports of injury associated with the chip failure.

Medical premiums could still be a 'heavy lift'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Many middle-class Americans would still struggle to pay for health insurance despite efforts by President Barack Obama and Democrats to make coverage more affordable. The legislation advancing in Congress would require all Americans to get insurance - through an employer, a government program or by buying it themselves. But new tax credits to help with premiums won't go far enough for everyone. Some middle-class families purchasing their own coverage through new insurance exchanges could find it out of reach. Lawmakers recognize the problem. "For some people it's going to be a heavy lift," said Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del. "We're doing our best to make sure it's not an impossible lift."

Nation

Baby snatch victim loses kids to state custody

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A mother whose newborn was kidnapped by a knife-wielding woman posing as an immigration agent was briefly reunited with her baby Saturday, then saw him and her three other children taken from her and put into state custody.

Rob Johnson, a spokesman for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, said the children were taken from their mother, Maria Gurrolla, "purely for safety reasons," though he would not detail why the state deemed they were in danger.

"Our focus is on the children, and under the current situation right now, we think the safest thing to do is take the children into state custody," he said.

Gurrolla, 30, was stabbed in her home Tuesday, just four days after giving birth to Yair Anthony Carillo, who was snatched by the attacker.

Nashville police said the baby was found in good health Friday night at a home in Ardmore, Ala., about 80 miles south of Nashville near the Tennessee line.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Director Mark Gwyn said officials arrested Tammy Renee Silas, 39, at the home in Ardmore. Federal authorities formally charged her Saturday with kidnapping.

AP

Norma Rodriguez carries away flowers that were left by neighbors at the home of her cousin, Maria Gurrolla, in Nashville, Tenn., Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009.

Silas' live-in boyfriend, Martin Rodriguez, said he was shocked by the arrest and didn't think she was capable of the crime.

Speaking through an interpreter, he said Silas told him she was adopting a baby from a cousin who had to go to jail, and was going to El Paso, Texas, to get the child. He said he picked Silas up from the Huntsville airport Tuesday and she had a newborn with her.

"She was acting normal around the baby and I didn't really see any difference, but I think she was happy," Rodriguez said from their one-story home, where a box of baby clothes for a boy overflowed in the dining room. "What woman isn't happy to carry a baby?"

Rodriguez said he met Silas, a contractor, when they both lived in Nashville. He said Silas is bilingual and was born in Tarrant County, Texas, where she had family. "The last thing that she said to me was, 'I am so sorry and I love you,'" Rodriguez said.

Jackson, Farrakhan at beaten Ill. teen's funeral

CHICAGO (AP)—The funeral of a Chicago teen who was beaten to death on his way home from school drew civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan on Saturday, both calling for an end to youth violence.

Farrakhan said he came to the funeral because he was "deeply pained" by the death of 16-year-old honor roll student Derrion Albert. The boy was walking to a bus stop after school when a group of teens attacked him during a street fight late last month.

"Naturally, we wonder why such a beautiful life? Such a future we thought was waiting for this young man," Farrakhan said. "This was a special young man of righteous bearing who God took from us so young."

Cell phone video footage shows Albert being kicked and hit with splintered railroad ties. Four teens are charged in his death.

President Barack Obama is sending U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Education Secretary Arne Duncan, who once led Chicago Public Schools, to Chicago on Wednesday to meet with school officials, students and residents and talk about school violence.

"The eyes of the world are watching," Pastor E.F. Ledbetter Jr. told mourners at the Greater Mount Hebron Baptist Church on the city's South Side. "This has affected people all over the globe."

Mayor Richard Daley, just off a plane Saturday from an International Olympic Committee meeting in Copenhagen where Chicago lost the 2016 Summer Games, said he would work with police, the community and school officials to break the "code of silence" that happens after street violence.

Radical influences all around NYC terror suspect

NEW YORK (AP)—If he chose to listen, Najibullah Zazi could hear the calls for violence all around him. The Afghan immigrant accused of plotting a terror attack on New York City spent his earliest years in his wartorn homeland, a center of strife and fighting against a Soviet invasion and, after the occupiers left, clashing warlords.

When Zazi was a teenager, his family shared a Queens apartment building and worshipped with an imam linked to a former Afghan warlord later identified by the U.S. as a global terrorist.

And as a young man, Zazi traveled to a region of Pakistan known for training terrorists and visited camps where al-Qaida teaches how to kill with horrific bombs made from household ingredients like hair dye and flour.

AP

In this photo released by the New York City Police Department, Najibullah Zazi, center, is escorted off an NYPD helicopter by U.S Marshals after being extradited from Denver, Colo., Friday, Sept. 25, 2009.

Along the way, Zazi was transformed from a snappily dressed young man with a taste for computer games and basketball to a bearded devotee of Islamic traditionalism—while also selling coffee from a cart at the epicenter of American capitalism, Wall Street.

Zazi's friends and relatives say he never chose to listen to others urging violence, instead working long days and spending his little free time with his family. "He was a very normal, very life-loving guy," said Naiz Khan, who befriended Zazi nearly 10 years ago when the two teenagers attended the same mosque and high school in Queens.

California forest fire destroys 3 homes

LYTLE CREEK, Calif. (AP)—A fire driven by winds of 40 mph destroyed three homes and threatened dozens of others in a rugged warren of mountains and canyons northeast of San Bernardino on Saturday.

As a huge wall of flames chewed through thick timber and brush in the Lytle Creek area 15 miles northeast of San Bernardino, residents of some 50 homes in its path fled, taking horses and pets with them. No injuries were reported.

"We do have structures lost, three homes in Swarthout Canyon," said Norma Bailey, a fire information officer with the U.S. Forest Service. The area is not far from Interstate 15, a major route connecting Las Vegas with Southern California.

About 50 homes are located in the canyon, and Bailey said evacuation centers had been opened for people, large animals like horses and smaller animals like dogs and cats. People were being housed at Eisenhower High School in nearby Rialto, while horses were being boarded at the Glen Helen Regional Park rodeo grounds in Devore and smaller animals were being taken to a local animal shelter. The area is about 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

The blaze, named the sheep Fire, broke out about 2 p.m. in the northwest corner of Lytle Creek, a small community surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest. Fueled by thick timber and brush, and pushed over hills and canyons by the wind, it quickly burned across 1,500 acres.

It was only 5 percent contained Saturday night, and its cause was under investigation.

In addition to the homes, campgrounds and an RV park in the area were also evacuated.

ACROSS THE NATION

NY man accused of tweeting cop actions at protests

NEW YORK (AP)—A self-described New York City anarchist has been accused of tweeting the location of police officers to protesters trying to evade them during the Group of 20 economic summit in Pittsburgh. Pennsylvania State Police arrested Elliot Madison alleging he used Twitter to direct the movement of protesters and inform them about law enforcement actions at last month's summit. The New York Post reported the arrest in Saturday editions. Court papers filed by Madison's attorney say FBI agents executed a search warrant at the 41-year-old's Queens home on Thursday. They seized computers, political writings and anarchist literature. Madison faces charges including hindering prosecution.

Mormon church to build 5 new temples worldwide

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Mormon church president Thomas S. Monson on Saturday announced plans to build five new temples in the United States and abroad. Temples will be built in Brigham City, Utah; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Concepcion, Chile; Fortaleza, Brazil; and Sapporo, Japan, Monson said. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints already has 130 temples operating worldwide, most in the U.S. Another 16 are either planned or already under construction. Monson has announced plans for at least 10 new temples since he became the church's 16th president in February 2008. His announcement came during the opening session of the church's two-day semiannual general conference in Salt Lake City.

Missouri man gets life for killing stepdaughter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A Missouri man has been sentenced to life in prison for killing his 15-year-old stepdaughter in the same 1997 attack that left the girl's mother dead and her brother wounded. Terrance Wainright of Raytown also was sentenced Friday to an additional 90 years in prison for shooting his 10-year-old stepson and related crimes. Wainright's life term will run consecutively to the 60-year sentence he received after pleading guilty to killing Candice Bruner's mother, JoAnn Bruner-Wainright. Wainright apologized Friday in Jackson County Circuit Court before the sentence was imposed. But he also said he wouldn't have shot Candice if she hadn't attacked him with a knife as she tried to help her mother.

Remote part of eastern Calif. shaken by temblors

LONE PINE, California (AP)—More earthquakes have struck a remote area of eastern California that has been shaken by a series of tremors since Thursday. The U.S. Geological Survey says four quakes—magnitude 3.0, 4.5, 3.0 and 3.1—hit between about midnight and Saturday morning. An Inyo County sheriff's dispatcher says no damage or injuries have been reported. Friday night a magnitude-5.2 quake occurred at a very shallow depth, and was preceded by tremors of 4.7 and 4.9 in a six-minute span, according to the USGS. Early Thursday, a magnitude-5 earthquake struck the same area. Dozens of mostly tiny aftershocks followed. The quakes' epicenters were just southeast of the Owens Valley town of Lone Pine, about 180 miles (290 kilometers) north of Los Angeles.

Asia

Latest typhoon kills 16 in northern Philippines

AP

Local residents make their way through floodwaters in Taytay township, Rizal province east of Manila, Philippines, Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Landslides buried two families in the Philippines as they sheltered in their homes from Asia's latest deadly typhoon, which killed at least 16 people and left more than a dozen flooded villages cut off Sunday.

Police Senior Superintendent Loreto Espineli said a family of five, including a 1-year-old boy, died when their home in Benguet province was buried as Typhoon Parma hit Saturday. Seven people, including another family of five, were buried in a nearby village, he said.

Officials had earlier listed four people as being killed in the typhoon, which cut a destructive path across the northern Philippines but spared the capital, Manila.

Parma hit just eight days after an earlier storm left Manila awash in the worst flooding in four decades, killing almost 300 people.

Parma was churning over the South China Sea on Sunday, as troops in southern Taiwan helped to evacuate villages that could be hit next. The Central Weather Bureau said Parma should miss the island, but it could still bring heavy rain to flood- and landslide-prone areas still recovering from a deadly typhoon in August.

Tens of thousands of Filipinos fled to higher ground as Parma bore down on the main island of Luzon, packing winds of 108 mph (175 kph) and driving rain. Towns in half a dozen provinces were battered, and downpours swelled rivers to bursting, officials said.

About 14 farming villages at the mouth of the Cagayan River were flooded when it overflowed, forcing some residents to clamber onto their roofs, Mayor Ismael Tumaru of nearby Aparri town told The Associated Press by mobile phone.

A part of a seawall collapsed, worsening the flooding in some coastal villages.

Navy, coast guard and police rescuers plucked many villagers to safety but at least one village remained isolated by floodwaters. There has been no report so far of casualties, he said.

"We're like at sea," Tumaru said as he inspected an inundated village by boat. "This used to be a rice field with roads and power posts. Now, it's just water everywhere."

Power, phone lines and internet links were down across the north, making it difficult to get reports about the extent of damage, said Armand Araneta, a civil defense official responsible for several northern provinces.

"We really got the brunt of the wind," he said by phone from Tuguegarao city, capital of Cagayan province. "Many trees fell here. The winds knocked down cables, telephone lines - even our windows got shattered by the strong winds."

Manila escaped the worst of the storm. On Sept. 26, Tropical Storm Ketsana killed at least 288 people and damaged the homes of 3 million. Ketsana went on to kill 99 in Vietnam, 14 in Cambodia and 16 in Laos.

Parma caps a week of destruction in the Asia-Pacific region: an earthquake Wednesday in Indonesia, a tsunami Tuesday in the Samoan islands, and Ketsana.

Another typhoon, Melor, was churning Sunday in the Philippine Sea, 1,600 miles (2,575 kilometers) to the east.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Attack on remote Afghan outposts kills 8 US troops

KABUL (AP)—Militant fighters streaming from a village and a mosque attacked a pair of remote outposts near the Pakistan border, killing eight American soldiers and as many as seven Afghan forces in one of the fiercest attacks of the troubled eight-year war. The Taliban claimed responsibility. The raid began around dawn Saturday morning and lasted several hours, said Jamaludin Badar, governor of Nuristan province. Badar said the two outposts were on a hill - one on top and one at the foot of the slope - flanked by the village on one side and the mosque on the other. The U.S. military statement said the Americans and Afghans repelled the attack by tribal fighters and "inflicted heavy enemy casualties."

China premier in N. Korea; nuclear talks possible

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrived Sunday in North Korea on a highly anticipated state visit amid signs the North may be willing to restart dialogue over its nuclear programs following months of resistance. North Korean leader Kim Jong Il greeted Wen at Pyongyang's airport, another indication that Kim remains firmly in charge despite recent reports of failing health. Footage provided by Associated Press Television News showed the two presiding over a welcoming ceremony, with Kim wearing his trademark sunglasses and brown leisure suit. Wen was then shown leaving in a limousine motorcade, while a crowd of North Korean greeters shouted slogans.

Former Japanese finance minister found dead

TOKYO (AP)—A former Japanese finance minister who stepped down after appearing to be drunk at an overseas news conference was found dead in his home Sunday, police said. The cause of Shoichi Nakagawa's death was under investigation, a spokeswoman for the Tokyo police said. His body was found by his wife in the bedroom of their Tokyo home, she said on condition of anonymity due to police policy. The 56-year-old Nakagawa caused an uproar when he appeared to be drunk at a news conference during a meeting of Group of Seven financial leaders in Rome in February. International news programs repeatedly played footage of Nakagawa slurring his speech and looking sleepy.

Indonesian villagers use bare hands to dig corpses

JUMANAK, Indonesia (AP)—With no outside help in sight, villagers used their bare hands Sunday to dig out rotting corpses four days after landslides triggered by a huge earthquake obliterated four hamlets in western Indonesia.

Officials said at least 644 people were buried and presumed dead in the hillside villages in Padang Pariaman district on the western coast of Sumatra island. If confirmed it would raise the death toll in Wednesday's 7.6-magnitude earthquake to more than 1,300, with about 3,000 missing.

The extent of the disaster in remote villages was only now becoming clear. So far, aid and rescue efforts have been concentrated in the region's capital, Padang, a city of 900,000 people where several tall buildings collapsed.

But the quake was equally devastating in the hills of Pariaman, where entire hillsides were shaken loose, sending a cascade of mud, rocks and trees through least four villages.

Vice President Jusuf Kalla said there was little hope of finding anyone alive.

"We can be sure that they are dead. So now we are waiting for burials," he told reporters.

Where the villages once stood, there was only mud and broken palm trees. The mountainsides appeared to have been gouged bare by a gigantic backhoe.

The villages "were sucked 30 meters (100 feet) deep into the earth," said Rustam Pakaya, the head of Indonesia's Health Ministry crisis center. "Even the mosque's minaret, taller than 20 meters (65 feet), disappeared."

In Jumanak village, some 200 to 300 wedding guests at a restaurant were buried alive, including the bride, her 15-year-old brother, Iseh, told The Associated Press.

He said his sister Ichi, 19, had come back to the village for her wedding.

"When the landslide came, the party had just finished. I heard a big boom of the avalanche. I ran outside and saw the trees fall down," said Iseh, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

"I tried to get in front of the house with my brothers. We were so afraid. Landslides started coming from all directions. I just ran and then I waited," he said.

Iseh says he knows of only 10 people from the village who survived. He doesn't know the fate of his parents or brothers.

The adjacent villages of Pulau Aiya, Lubuk Lawe and Limo Koto Timur were also swept away.

Pakaya earlier had said the wedding party was in Pulau Aiya, but Iseh clarified Sunday that it was in Jumanak.

Survivors in the area said no government aid or search teams had arrived, even four days after the quake. Only about 20 local policemen had come with a power shovel and body bags.

"My relatives were all killed, washed away by the landslide," said Dola Jambak, a 48-year-old trader, picking through the rubble of his house. "I lost seven relatives. Now all I can do is wait for the search teams. But they don't come."

The landslides cut off all roads, and the villages were accessible only by foot. An AP team reached Jumanak after walking about four miles (six kilometers) for 1 1/2 hours.

Villagers gathered as men used their bare hands to slowly and cautiously pull corpses from a tangle of roots and grit. The bodies were bloated and mutilated, some unrecognizable. One man's body was found because his hand was sticking out of the mud.

Women wept silently as bodies were placed in bright yellow bags.

Aid also had not reached Agam district, which is much closer to Padang.

Laila, a villager in Agam district, said she and hundreds of others had no food, clothes and clean water.

"Our house is gone ... everything is gone," she sobbed.

She said a helicopter dropped some instant noodle packets Saturday. "But we need clean water to cook it," said Laila, who also uses one name. She said the local river had become dirty.

AP

Indonesian soldiers and rescue workers try to remove bodies trapped in the Ambacang Hotel Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009 in Padang, Indonesia, three days after Wednesday's 7.6-magnitude quake that toppled thousands of buildings on Sumatra island.

World

'Sicily death toll could reach 50'

ROME (AP)—Rescue workers dug for a second day Saturday through piles of mud and debris as they searched for about 30 missing people from a mudslide that has killed at least 21 in Sicily.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi said he feared the death toll from Italy's worst mudslides in a decade could rise to 50. The Italian premier is expected to survey the area by helicopter on Sunday, his office said.

Rivers of mud unleashed by heavy rains flooded parts of Messina, a city in eastern Sicily, on Friday, sweeping away cars and collapsing buildings. Hundreds were left homeless and about 80 injured.

With the rain letting up and sun forecast in coming days, the head of the Civil Protection Department expressed cautious hope the worst was over. "The situation is difficult and complex, but it is under control," Guido Bertolaso told reporters from Messina.

However, some roads were still impassable and the terrain unstable from the rain that fell in the past days. Bertolaso said that some roads had "crumbled."

Rescue teams were digging with bulldozers, shovels and bare hands through the mud. Some rescuers were aided by sniffer dogs as they searched for survivors. Firefighters were clearing away the mud from major roads.

AP

A detail of a collapsed building in the seaside village of Scaletta Zanclea, near Messina, southern Italy, Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009.

Officials said the number of missing was believed to be around 30 but was hard to determine. About four missing people were found to have been away from the area at the time of the disaster, said Luca Spoletini of the Civil Protection Department.

Iran's leader: Obama wrong to say that nuke site hidden

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president hit back Saturday at President Barack Obama's accusation that his country had sought to hide its construction of a new nuclear site, arguing that Tehran reported the facility to the U.N. even earlier than required.

The Iranian president defended his government's actions as the head of the U.N.'s nuclear monitoring agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, arrived Saturday to arrange an inspection of the uranium enrichment facility near the holy city of Qom.

The revelation that Iran has been building a new nuclear plant has heightened the concern of the U.S. and many of its allies, which suspect Tehran is using a civilian nuclear program as a cover for developing a weapons-making capability. Iran denies such an aim, saying it only wants to generate energy.

Obama and the leaders of France and Britain accused Iran of keeping the construction hidden from the world for years. The U.S. president said last month that Iran's actions "raised grave doubts" about its promise to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes only.

ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has also said Tehran was "on the wrong side of the law" over the new plant and should have revealed its plans as soon as it decided to build the facility.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad challenged that view in a speech Saturday, saying that Iran voluntarily revealed the facility to the IAEA in a letter on Sept. 21. He said that was one year earlier than necessary under the agency's rules.

"The U.S. president made a big and historic mistake," Iranian state TV quoted Ahmadinejad as saying. "Later it became clear that (his) information was wrong and that we had no secrecy."

White House spokesman Tom Vietor said the administration had no comment on Ahmadinejad's remarks.

Socialists seen to win Greece polls

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greeks cast ballots Sunday in a snap general election likely to produce a change in government, as voters angered by scandals and a foundering economy were expected to reject the conservatives in favor of the opposition Socialists.

Polling stations opened at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) and were to close at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT) in the election conservative Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis called just halfway through his second four-year term.

Karamanlis, 53, and opposition leader George Papandreou, 57, differ radically in their approach to Greece's economic woes, with Karamanlis advocating austerity and Papandreou saying a stimulus package is needed to jump-start the economy.

Papandreou's Panhellenic Socialist Movement, known by its Greek acronym PASOK, headed into the polls leading Karamanlis' New Democracy party by 6 to 7 percentage points in the last opinion polls published two weeks earlier, before a pre-election ban came into effect.

But it was unclear whether Papandreou would be able to win an overall majority that would allow him to form a government.

If no party wins enough votes to gain 151 seats in the 300-member parliament and none can form a coalition with a smaller party, new elections will have to be called, likely in November.

Health & Fitness

$3B quest to cure cancer begins

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas gave birth to the modern oil industry, invented the handheld calculator and sent man to the moon. But can the Lone Star State cure cancer?

Texas is ready to try by investing $3 billion over the next decade in cancer research and prevention, which would make the state the gatekeeper of the second largest pot of cancer research dollars in the country, behind only the National Cancer Institute.

"I don't know anyone that would stand shoulder-to-shoulder with what they're trying to do," said Robert Urban, executive director of the Koch Institute for Innovative Cancer Research at MIT.

That gee-whiz impression is what Texas leaders sought in 2007, when the state created the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas through an ambitious bond measure approved by voters. Lance Armstrong, champion cyclist and cancer survivor, sold the plan to voters, and Gov. Rick Perry said he dreamed of a day "we talk about cancer the same way we talk about polio."

Texas is now putting out the call to scientists: Come and get the money.

Institute leaders say the money will fund drug developments, gamble on high-risk research turned away elsewhere and attract big-name scientists to Texas. Creating the first statewide clinical trial network, which could give cancer patients more access to experimental drugs, also is being discussed.

AP

Dr. Tyler Curiel, executive director of the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonioin poses for a photo at his lab in San Antonio, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009.

ON THE NET

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas: http://www.cprit.state.tx.us

But so much money on the table—particularly in the hands of a state that's new to funding cancer research—has some researchers worried that politics and backroom deals will play a role in deciding who gets what. The agency will invest upward of $260 million a year on cancer research and $30 million in preventive services such as early detection screenings.

A sagging economy also makes some skittish about whether the state will follow through with funding for an entire decade.

"That $3 billion isn't in the bank," said Dr. Tyler Curiel, executive director of the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. "What if the money isn't going to be there in the future?"

Curiel is among the hundreds of researchers who began writing applications last month for a slice of the $450 million Texas will hand out over the first two years. The first grants are expected to be awarded by spring.

The state also is hoping to lure more top scientists to Texas with $2 million offers for salary and research and is prepared to offer even more for "superstars."

But once the money is doled out, the agency cautions, don't expect any overnight miracles.

"(We're) not going to bring new drugs to market during the first two years. Nor during the first four years," said Dr. Alfred Gilman, the institute's chief scientific officer. "It will take a good deal of time."

HEALTH TIPS

Counting calories; coping with tension; backpack suggestions

By LINDSAY MINNEMA

(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Ever wonder how many calories you really burn during your morning jog? The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) has an online calculator that can give you the answer. For someone who weighs 150 pounds and jogs for 30 minutes at about 7 miles per hour, it works out to be about 460 calories. How about playing tennis for an hour? That's 400 calories. Just plug in your weight, activity and the time you spend doing that activity, and the calculator spits out an estimate for calories burned.

UMMS has 23 other calculators that can tell you your risk of developing heart disease, how many grams of carbohydrates you should eat daily, what the likelihood is that your teenager may try marijuana, and more. But user beware: These tests should only be used as guidelines for addressing certain health issues. Still, if you have 15 minutes of down time, they are pretty entertaining. Check them out at www.healthcalculators.org.

■ ■ ■

Between worrying about making ends meet during a recession, staying healthy during flu season, and dealing with everything else you have going on in your life, the stress adds up. But there are some easy—and free—things you can do to cope with all the tension. Here is what James S. Gordon, the author of "Unstuck: Your Guide to the Seven-Stage Journey out of Depression," suggests:

■ Meditate. Several times a day, practice slow, deep breathing with eyes closed and belly relaxed.

■ Exercise regularly. It increases mood-enhancing neurotransmitters in the brain and decreases the levels of stress hormones.

■ Reach out to friends or family for comfort and support. Sometimes just talking with others can help you put things in perspective.

■ ■ ■

To make sure your kids' backs aren't strained or stressed by carrying their school books around, consider these backpack suggestions from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP):

■ Find a bag with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back. Or, consider buying a rolling backpack. Just remember that rolling bags may have to be lugged up stairs and can be hard to roll on soft surfaces (such as grass or snow).

■ Pack heavier items closest to the center of the back, and use all the bag's compartments. It should never weigh more than 10 or 20 percent of your child's body weight.

■ Remind your kids to always use both straps. Using just one strains the back.

For more back to school tips, visit the AAP Web site at www.aap.org.

Life & Style

19 chocolatiers prep for scrumdidlyumptious show

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Lionel Clement's training regimen for a scrumdidlyumptious showdown in Paris with 18 other chocolate chefs would make Willy Wonka himself proud.

Clement, a French-born chocolatier representing the United States at the World Chocolate Masters competition, has spent four months tinkering with his flavors, another four months designing and developing his show pieces and four months practicing to get it all done within 11½ hours at the biennial culinary competition that starts Oct. 14.

"You have to make sure that you don't screw up. I'm proud to do what I'm going to do for this country," he said.

Clement, 30, is the head chocolatier for the Wynn Las Vegas hotel-casino, where he creates thousands of handmade confections each day.

Clement topped four other pastry chefs at a daylong competition in New York last November when he used several layers of chocolate to produce a silhouette of a woman's face, with long hair and a fancy hat.

That won him the chance to compete in the world competition. He will face chocolatiers who won national competitions in 12 European countries, China, Japan, Thailand, Russia, Canada and Mexico. A Lebanese chef also was scheduled to attend but canceled, citing instability in Lebanon, competition officials said.

Pol Deschepper of Belgium won the inaugural competition in 2005; Japan's Naomi Mizuno won in 2007.

Clement said he has spent the last year working four to six hours a day in preparing to entice the panel of 21 judges. They will judge competitors on a roughly 25-pound (11.3-kilogram) showpiece, as well as two identical layered cakes to serve eight people, a gastronomic chocolate dessert, two different pralines and a decorated haute couture chocolate hat.

"It has to be unbelievable, and at the same time you've got to be able to make it because otherwise it's not going to work," Clement said. "It's not only how to make and build master showpieces, it's also about flavor."

"You've got to be the best for everything you're going to make over there," he said.

The competition is serious even if its participants wield only sweets; a prize pool worth roughly €75,000 ($109,000) is on the line including a €20,000 package (roughly $29,000) for the winner.

AP

This Sept. 30, 2009 photo shows Chocolatier Lionel Clement preparing chocolates at Wynn Las Vegas hotel & casino in Las Vegas.

A spokeswoman for Barry Callebaut, the Switzerland-based cocoa and chocolate manufacturer organizing the competition, said a winner will have mastered the flavors of chocolate and deliver their desserts in a visually appealing and inventive way.

"This requires real craftsmanship," spokeswoman Gaby Tschofen said. And the professional skill to execute with limited time.

The chocolatiers will have 11½ hours over two days to finish their desserts, including three hours to set up their large showpiece, which has to be made almost entirely of chocolate or cocoa-derived products, according to competition rules.

The pieces stay together with cocoa butter or melted chocolate as an adhesive, Tschofen said.

"If you melt it too much, well then there's the risk of the whole thing falling apart," she said. "You really need to know how you should work with chocolate in the first place."

Competitors work alone in hauling and assembling their piece, and will be judged on how clean their workspace is 45 minutes after they're done, the rules say.

"During the whole competition, it's only you and yourself — that's it," said Clement, who spent five years at the Lenotre chocolate store in Paris before joining Wynn three years ago. "You've got to show them that you can handle it."

He said he doesn't know his competition very well — except that the Chinese chocolatier Lei Fu Veng works at the Wynn Macau, a sister hotel to the Wynn Las Vegas — but he's more concerned about executing on the desserts he's designed.

"When you start to do something, you don't give up. You go through all the issues you can have and after that, you do your job," he said. "And if you're the best one, great, good for you. If you're not ... it's fair."

Letterman is target of the kind of jokes he tells

NEW YORK (AP)—Late-night hosts didn't waste a moment poking fun at the troubles of one of their own, after a CBS newsman was charged with trying to blackmail David Letterman for $2 million in a plot that forced the late-night comic to acknowledge having sex with some of the women who have worked for him.

The bizarre case has created a messy legal and professional problem for one of CBS' most valuable personalities. Commentators and bloggers quickly accused Letterman of hypocrisy because he has made a career of mocking politicians mercilessly, often for their sexual transgressions.

Robert J. "Joe" Halderman, a producer for the true-crime show "48 Hours Mystery," pleaded not guilty in a Manhattan court to one count of attempted first-degree grand larceny, punishable by five to 15 years in prison. Prosecutors said Halderman, who was released after posting $200,000 bail, was desperate and deep in debt.

Jay Leno, Letterman's longtime late-night rival, kicked off his monologue Friday on NBC: "If you came here tonight for sex with a talk show host, you've got the wrong studio."

On NBC's "Late Night," Jimmy Fallon also worked it into his monologue: "There's a new book out called "Why Women Have Sex" that says there are 237 reasons why women have sex. And folks, Letterman knows the top 10."

It remains to be seen whether Letterman will suffer long-term damage just as his career appears to be peaking. Letterman has taken over as the king of late-night in the ratings this summer, and last week he beat NBC's "Tonight" show host Conan O'Brien for the first time among young viewers.

Friday night's "Late Show" was taped in advance on Thursday, meaning Letterman won't be taping an episode after his revelation until at least Monday. But Friday's show did include a moment—coincidental in retrospect—when guest Larry David unwittingly suggested that he beat Letterman's record of having the fewest number of dates for someone with a TV show.

"Oh, I don't know," replied Letterman, grinning knowingly.

Halderman's connection to Letterman was not immediately clear, but public records show that until August, he lived in Norwalk, Conn., with Stephanie Birkitt, a 34-year-old woman who works on the "Late Show" staff and used to work at "48 Hours."

Birkitt was an assistant to Letterman on the "Late Show" and frequently appeared on camera with the host in comedy bits. Last month, Birkitt moved to Manhattan. There was no answer Friday at a phone listed in her name.

Halderman wouldn't speak to reporters at his house Saturday morning and threatened to call police if they didn't leave the private road that leads to his modest three-bedroom house.

It was unclear how many women were involved with Letterman, 62, who married longtime girlfriend Regina Lasko in March. The couple began dating in 1986 and have a son, Harry, born in November 2003.

All the affairs took place before Letterman's marriage, said Tom Keaney, spokesman for Letterman's production company, Worldwide Pants. Keaney also said Letterman "is not in violation" of the company's harassment policy "and no one has ever raised a complaint against him."

CBS issued a statement Friday: "We think it was appropriate for Dave to disclose the matter publicly as he has, and we are continuing to cooperate with authorities."

CBS would not address questions about whether Letterman faced any disciplinary actions for relationships with subordinates.

Halderman gave the talk show host a package of materials that "contained clear, explicit and actual threats that indicate this defendant ... (wanted to) destroy the reputation of Mr. Letterman and to submit him and his family to humiliation and ridicule," Assistant District Attorney Judy Salwen said in court.

AP

In this Jan. 17, 2008 file photo, television talk show host David Letterman walks out of The Ed Sullivan Theater during a taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman", in New York.

Halderman, hands cuffed behind his back, stared at the floor during most of Friday's court hearing and said only "not guilty."

His lawyer, Gerald Shargel, said Halderman worked at CBS for 27 years and had no prior criminal record. He described him as an involved father who coached soccer, baseball and football and has two children, ages 11 and 18.

"This story is far more complicated than what you heard this afternoon," Shargel said outside court, but he would not elaborate.

Halderman allegedly left an envelope in Letterman's car early Sept. 9. According to authorities, he wrote that he needed money and said Letterman's world would "collapse around him" if damaging information about him were made public.

Letterman acknowledged that the letter contained proof that the late-night host had sexual relationships with members of his staff.

Three meetings between Letterman's lawyer and Halderman subsequently took place, the last two with the lawyer recording the conversations and prosecutors listening in, District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said.

At the last meeting, on Wednesday, the lawyer gave Halderman a phony check for $2 million, Morgenthau said.

Halderman deposited the check Thursday and was arrested that day, he said.

It's the second set of embarrassing headlines for Letterman in four months. He apologized on the air earlier this summer for a crude joke involving Sarah Palin's family. But when the controversy continued to swirl, he came back after a weekend to offer a stronger mea culpa.

Letterman's contract with CBS runs through next August, though the network has been in negotiations to continue that through 2012.

'SNL' zings David Letterman's difficulties

NEW YORK (AP)—Add "Saturday Night Live" to the shows making sport of David Letterman's difficulties. But in the hands of "SNL," Dave got off pretty easy.

On Thursday, the "Late Show" host had acknowledged having sex with some of the women who worked for him, and told his viewers he was the victim of a blackmail attempt.

On "SNL," "Weekend Update" anchor Seth Meyers dubbed the extortion attempt by a CBS News producer "a stupid human trick."

Meyers added that the would-be blackmailer was threatening to reveal embarrassing details of Letterman's personal life, then gave a joking example: "After sex, he would always say, 'Stay tuned for Craig Ferguson.'"

Letterman's fellow TV hosts Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon are among comics who already had zinged him on their shows.

Leno kicked off his monologue Friday by declaring, "If you came here tonight for sex with a talk show host, you've got the wrong studio."

He continued, "The guy that was trying to blackmail Letterman was a producer for the show '48 Hours.' It could have been worse: At least he wasn't producer of 'To Catch a Predator.'"

Also on NBC, "Late Night" host Jimmy Fallon had his own wisecrack: "There's a new book out called 'Why Women Have Sex' that says there are 237 reasons why women have sex. And folks, Letterman knows the top 10."

ABC's Jimmy Kimmel spared Letterman in his Friday monologue.

So did Conan O'Brien on NBC's "Tonight Show." He also dodged the issue when guest Drew Carey brought it up.

"I would hate to be on opposite Letterman tonight with all that sex stuff going on," Carey said. "That's got to be tough."

"No comment," O'Brien responded quickly.

Still to be heard from: Jon Stewart on "The Daily Show" and Stephen Colbert on "The Colbert Report." Both Comedy Central shows are dark on Fridays, but will be back with fresh episodes Monday.

So will CBS' Craig Ferguson, host of "The Late Late Show," whose Friday edition had been taped earlier in the week. On Monday, the comically outspoken Ferguson will be able to add his zingers. But there's a potentially delicate situation: Letterman's Worldwide Pants produces his show. That makes Letterman his boss.

Insurance man accused of stalking ESPN's Andrews

CHICAGO (AP)—An insurance man called "as regular a guy as you'll ever meet" was ordered back to California on Saturday to face charges that he stalked ESPN reporter Erin Andrews and video taped her nude by aiming a cell phone camera through an altered peephole in her hotel room door.

Michael David Barrett, 47, of Westmont, Ill., was being held in jail over the weekend while awaiting a judge's decision Monday on whether he will go to Los Angeles as a federal prisoner or free on bail.

Barrett, clad in the bright orange jumpsuit of a federal prisoner, made a brief initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Arlander Keys after being arrested Friday night by FBI agents at O'Hare International Airport.

An FBI affidavit said Barrett requested and stayed in a room near Andrews at a Tennessee hotel where investigators believe seven videos were recorded. An eighth video may have been shot at a hotel in Milwaukee.

"I don't think he's even had a traffic ticket," said his lawyer, Rick Beuke. "He's as regular a guy as you'll ever meet—a great friend," said the attorney, who said he had known Barrett for a decade. "I must have calls from 30 people wanting to know what they could do to help."

AP

ESPN's Erin Andrews reports from the sidelines during a NCAA college football game between Auburn and Tennessee Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009 in Knoxville, Tenn. Auburn won 26-22.

Beuke said Barrett had been divorced for some time and had children. A neighbor in Westmont, Srividhya Viswanath, 36, a homemaker, said Barrett lived quietly in a townhome complex with a female companion. She said she never got to know them well in part because they traveled frequently.

A spokeswoman for the Combined Insurance Company of America confirmed that Barrett was an employee who worked in sales management. Amy Burrell-Tichy said the company was cooperating with the FBI.

Barrett faces charges of interstate stalking for allegedly taking videos of Andrews in her hotel rooms while she was covering sporting events, trying to sell them to celebrity Web site TMZ and posting the videos online. The charges carry a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

The charges were filed in Los Angeles, where TMZ is based.

Beuke said he did not discuss the particulars of the charges when he met briefly with Barrett, surrounded by FBI agents, in court. He said he would study the FBI affidavit and try to meet with Barrett on Sunday to learn more.

Polanski agreed to $500K payment in civil lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Film director Roman Polanski agreed to pay his sexual assault victim $500,000 to settle a lawsuit 15 years after he fled the United States, according to court documents

Polanski and the victim, Samantha Geimer, reached the deal in October 1993. The terms of the settlement were confidential, but the amount was disclosed in court documents because of a two-year struggle to get Polanski to pay.

Court records, which were provided to media outlets Friday, do not indicate if Polanski ever paid. The last court filing in August 1996 shows Polanski, now 76, owed Geimer $604,416.22, including interest.

Polanski's attorney, David Finkle, said he couldn't remember details of the case and declined comment.

"It's ancient," Finkle said.

A phone message left for Geimer's attorney, Lawrence Silver, wasn't immediately returned. Geimer and her family also have not returned calls this week seeking comment.

Polanski was accused of plying Geimer, then a 13-year-old girl, with champagne and part of a Quaalude pill during a modeling shoot in 1977 and raping her. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy.

Polanski pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse and a judge sent him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation. However, he was released after 42 days by an evaluator who deemed him mentally sound and unlikely to offend again.

The judge responded by saying he was going to send Polanski back to jail for the remainder of the 90 days and that afterward he would ask Polanski to agree to a "voluntary deportation." Polanski then fled the country the night before he was scheduled to be sentenced, Feb. 1, 1978.

Polanski, who won an Academy Award for best director for "The Pianist," was arrested last weekend in Switzerland on a fugitive warrant in the case.

Geimer, who long ago identified herself, sued Polanski in December 1988 when she was 25 years old, alleging sexual assault, intentional infliction of emotional distress and seduction. She has since joined in Polanski's bid for dismissal and has forgiven him.

Politicians beware: Oil photo exhibit opens in DC

AP

In this photo courtesy of the Adamson Gallery and provided by the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the photo "Recycling #2, Chittagong Bangladesh, 2001", by Edward Burtynsky is seen.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Politicians, cover your eyes.

The first exhibit of 56 large-scale color landscapes from Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky chronicling the impact of oil made its debut Saturday at Washington's Corcoran Gallery of Art—less than a block from the White House. The show, chronicling the world's predominant energy source, can't help carrying a political zing.

"Edward Burtynsky: Oil," opens at the privately funded museum as Congress is struggling with a climate bill that could include a "cap and trade" system to reduce greenhouse gases. Critics say it could drive up energy costs.

"We hoped that there would be something going on around oil," curator Paul Roth said of the museum's plans for the exhibit beginning two years ago. "At a certain point, we realized, no, it's Washington and it's oil. There will be something going on."

The show, underwritten by Canada's Scotiabank, will be on view at the Corcoran through December, then will travel to Canada and other destinations through 2012. Corcoran officials also expect a smaller version to travel in Europe.

Burtynsky spent 12 years exploring the subject, following past projects on mines, quarries and farming. The images are divided thematically to show how oil is extracted from the earth and how it drives transportation and development. It ends with a frightening thought—the end of oil.

Some of the most striking images depict the abandoned, rusting oil fields of Azerbaijan in 2006, where the earth has been tapped dry.

The Toronto-based artist, who is the son of a General Motors production worker, said he had an "oil epiphany" in 1997 and was compelled to learn more. The exhibit was conceived when President George W. Bush, once an oil businessman, was still in office.

"I thought whoever the new guy is will have to have a different perspective, you know?" Burtynsky said. "Otherwise, America is in trouble."

His images include a pristine forest in Alberta, Canada, sliced by silver oil pipelines; massive oil fields with dozens of derricks pumping in Belridge, Calif.; and car-centric cities from Texas to China.

"It's like trying to photograph something that you never see," he said. "We don't see crude oil. It's like blood in our veins. It runs through our body, but if we see it, there's a problem usually."

Carl Jung's Red Book to be displayed for 1st time

NEW YORK (AP)—The Red Book, an intricate 16-year record of Carl Jung's journey into his unconscious that has never been seen publicly, is going on display in an exhibit at a New York museum that coincides with publication of the volume, rendered in the Swiss psychoanalyst's elaborate calligraphy and richly hued paintings.

The tome's existence had always been known, but scholars and the public have never seen it. After Jung's death in 1961, it was left in his Zurich home until it was moved to a bank safe deposit box sometime in the late 1980s.

AP

In this photo provided by the Rubin Museum of Art, the museum's chief curator, Martin Braun, left, and Felix Walder, great-grandson to Carl Jung, inspect Carl Jung's "The Red Book" after its arrival at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009.

Jung's descendants resisted historians' requests over the years to have the Red Book published. But after two partial typed draft manuscripts surfaced, they allowed a London historian of psychology, Sonu Shamdasani, who first approached them in 1997, to translate the work from the original.

The Red Book—equal parts extraordinary book of science and work of art—is an exquisite illuminated manuscript comparable to the artistry of the Book of Kells. It is written on heavy-gauge paper in Jung's elegant calligraphy and filled with his dream-like and painstaking tempera paintings of mythological figures and symbolic graphic forms in deep red, teal, blue and green brushstrokes.

Jung was 39 when he began making entries in the book in 1914, a period he called his "confrontation with the unconscious." He filled 205 pages of the folio-size volume.

The publication of a facsimile of the German-language manuscript and English translation by W.W. Norton & Company is priced at $195 and weighs 8.8 pounds.

Shamdasani said the book represents a series of what Jung called active imagination, or visualization, evoking waking dreams in which he had inner dialogue with fantasy figures to try to understand his unconscious—and his attempts to interpret their significance. Prominently figuring in these fantasies is Philemon, a prophetic wise old man with a white beard and kingfisher wings.

The book is also filled with brightly colored mandalas, a Hindu and Buddhist symbol of wholeness that Jung considered an important representation of his psychological and spiritual development.

Hung jury in NY theft of Dunst's bag

NEW YORK (AP)—A jury deadlocked Friday on the most serious charge against a mechanic who said he was misled into taking part in the theft of Kirsten Dunst's $2,000 handbag during a Manhattan movie shoot.

James Jimenez was convicted of a misdemeanor count of criminal trespass. But jurors deadlocked on burglary and other charges in the case, which included testimony from the "Spider-Man" star and her one-time co-star Simon Pegg.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the 35-year-old would be retried on the burglary charge in the August 2007 theft. It came while the 2008 comedy "How to Lose Friends & Alienate People" was being filmed at the SoHo Grand Hotel.

For now, he remains free on $50,000 bail at least until his Nov. 13 sentencing date on the criminal trespass count. It could send Jimenez, 35, to jail for up to a year. A burglary conviction carries as much as 15 years in prison.

"I feel pretty good," he said as he left court holding a Bible. "I never gave up my faith in the Lord."

There was no immediate response from representatives for Dunst and Pegg, whose cell phone and other items also were taken.

Jimenez told jurors he thought he was helping run an errand for co-defendant Jarrod Beinerman's mother when the two men slipped into a penthouse suite at the hotel around 4 a.m. on Aug. 9, while the movie was being filmed downstairs. Dunst and Pegg had left some belongings in the suite, which they had used to relax between takes.

Dunst told the jury last week that she returned to find her $2,000 Balenciaga bag missing, along with the $2,000 inside. Pegg testified that his phone, camera and iPod also disappeared.

Some of the items, including Dunst's purse, eventually were returned.

Jimenez testified that Beinerman took the items. Jimenez carried them out of the hotel in a shopping bag but said he didn't realize what was in it.

Beinerman was sentenced last September to 4 1/2 years in prison after pleading guilty to attempted burglary.

AP

In this June 15, 2009 file photo, actress Kirsten Dunst attends the 2009 CFDA Fashion Awards in New York.

'Housewives' cast member's ex-fiance dies in fight

ATLANTA (AP)—The former fiance of a cast member from "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" died Friday night after a fight outside an Atlanta strip club, and police said they had charged a man in his death.

Atlanta police spokesman James Polite said Fredrick Richardson was charged with voluntary manslaughter in the death of Ashley "A.J." Jewell, who died from massive head injuries after the fight in the parking lot of the Body Tap Club.

Jewell was engaged to "Housewives" cast member Kandi Burruss until August. He appeared in several episodes of the television show, which follows the lives of metro Atlanta socialites.

Burruss

Police say Jewell worked at the strip club, but they are not sure what started the fight.

Richardson was in the hospital, and police didn't immediately know his age or whether he had an attorney.

Burruss, a Grammy award-winning songwriter who penned TLC's hit "No Scrubs," posted a message on her Twitter account early Saturday.

"im just in one of those moods where i dont wanna talk, i dont wanna b held & told its gonna b ok. i just wanna cry myself 2 sleep, alone," wrote the 33-year-old Burruss, who was also was a member of 1990s R&B group Xscape. "I could never n a million years imagine this happening. please pray for AJ's children."

Burruss told Essence.com in an interview last month that she was caring for Jewell's 12-year-old twin daughters.

"He would have taken them with him, but they needed a strong female role model and wanted to stay with me," she said.

Travolta attorney in Bahamas trial denies setup

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—A lawyer for John Travolta denied Friday that he tried to set up a former Bahamas senator who is on trial for allegedly attempting to extort $25 million from the movie star.

Attorney Michael McDermott told the court he was following police instructions when he secretly recorded conversations with Pleasant Bridgewater, who is accused of demanding the money on behalf of a paramedic who treated the actor's 16-year-old son, Jett, following a seizure that led to his death.

The recordings are expected to be played in court next week.

Prosecutors say the former senator and the paramedic, Tarino Lightbourne, later agreed to accept $10 million in installments over a four-year period.

McDermott's testimony came in response to suggestions by Bridgewater's defense attorney, Murrio Ducille, that after the death he traveled to the Bahamas with the "sole mission" of setting Bridgewater up.

Ducille accused McDermott of arriving with "evil in his heart."

But McDermott said police told him to meet Bridgewater in a room outfitted with hidden cameras, and he believed he couldn't say no.

Ducille countered that as a lawyer, McDermott should have known he was not obliged to participate in the sting.

"I'm a commercial litigator," McDermott replied. "I am not a criminal lawyer."

The two have had a number of tense exchanges this week, and on Thursday testimony escalated into a shouting match that prompted Judge Anita Allen to call a halt to the proceedings. She issued a stern warning Friday before the trial resumed.

Bridgewater and Lightbourne are accused of threatening to make public a consent form that Travolta signed authorizing his autistic son to be flown to the U.S. after the seizure, instead of seeking treatment in the Bahamas.

Travolta later changed his mind, and Jett died at a local hospital Jan. 2.

Judge empowers Jackson executors to handle debts

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's three children seem to be adjusting well to being raised by their grandmother, a judge said.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff said Friday he was "very pleased" with the contents of a probate investigator's report detailing how the children are adjusting roughly three months after their father's death.

"It looks like the children are really doing wonderfully with their grandmother guardian," Beckloff said in brief comments on the report during a hearing Friday.

Prince Michael, 12, Paris, 11, and Prince II, 7, have been in Katherine Jackson's care since their father died in late June. Beckloff appointed Katherine Jackson as the children's permanent guardian in August and asked for an update on their conditions.

AP

In this March 17, 2005 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.

In his 2002 will, Michael Jackson designated his mother as his choice to care for his children if he died.

Beckloff sealed the report on the children and said he sees no need to get future updates.

Jackson's estate is paying a $60,000 per month stipend to care for and protect the youngsters.

Beckloff also increased the powers of two men currently administering Michael Jackson's estate, a move made in part because of the singer's substantial debts.

Beckloff gave attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain general powers over Jackson's estate, which allow them to consider creditors' claims. They can also enter into business deals that aren't opposed by Katherine Jackson without Beckloff's approval, and they can begin to represent the estate in several court cases pending against the singer when he died.

The judge made the ruling over the objections of Katherine Jackson's attorney.

Thanksgiving hostess decides it's time to pare her guest list

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I know it's early, but my problem is Thanksgiving. For the past several years we have included four other families for Thanksgiving dinner in our home. Their children are married now, and including their spouses and stepchildren, the number of guests is now close to 30. I feel it is too many and would like to downsize.

One family is my son's in-laws, whom I consider to be family. Another family hosts everyone for Easter, and I would still like to include them because we're close and we spend holidays with them.

The other two families are not as close with us anymore. We have never been invited to celebrate a holiday in their homes. They could cook for their families, and I feel like I am being used. I would like to tell them, after Thanksgiving is over this year, that we plan to have a smaller gathering next year. That will allow them ample time to make other plans. My husband agrees. How do I do this without causing a rift, since two families will be included and two won't?

THANKSGIVING QUANDARY

DEAR QUANDARY: Because you are feeling "used," why not draw the line now? If you do, the two families will still have time to make other plans.

The way to handle it would be to say: "This has been a year when everyone has had to cut back, and we are no exception. That's why we are limiting the number of guests we will be entertaining this Thanksgiving. We wanted you to know so there is enough time for you to make other arrangements. The parties have simply become too much work and too expensive to continue."

If those folks are friends, they'll grasp the economic reality and won't resent your honesty and pragmatism. And if they don't, they weren't real friends to begin with.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 42-year-old female physician. I have been dating an engineer for some time who is currently unemployed. He's a good person, gentle and affectionate. However, he won't introduce me to his mother. I'm not sure why. The subject has come up several times, and he keeps putting it off. She's his only living family member.

Should this raise a red flag? We're both from India and he lives with his mother, which is common practice.

M.D. IN A MUDDLE

DEAR M.D.: If the man is financially or emotionally dependent on his mother, he may be afraid that she will disapprove. Or, it could have something to do with the fact that he's unemployed. Whatever his reason, he owes you an explanation if you've been seeing each other for an extended period of time. And yes, it is a red flag. Bright red.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of several years has just told me he won't marry me as long as I have student loan debt to pay off. I have always been upfront with him about the amount of money I owe. It's a sizable sum, but my credit is good.

He says he loves me but cannot, in good faith, start a life with me owing that much money. Abby, am I wrong to think that student loans should not stop two people who love each other from getting married?

LOANED OUT IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR LOANED OUT: No, you are not. And furthermore, I suspect that rather than the money being the issue, it's that your boyfriend has had a change of heart.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

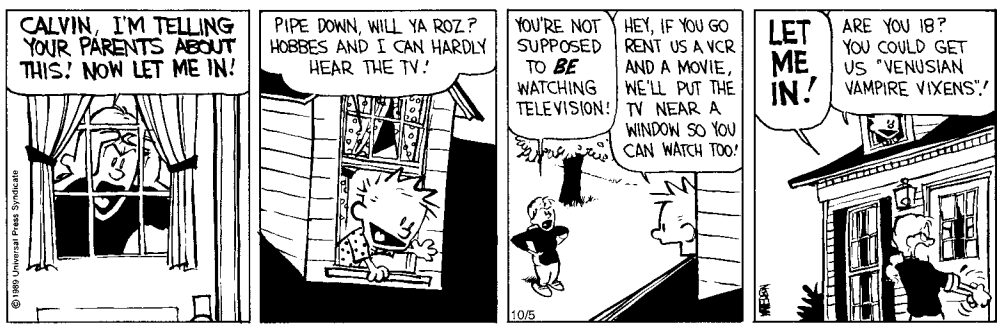
■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, I'M TELLING YOUR PARENTS ABOUT THIS! NOW LET ME IN!
PIPE DOWN, WILL YA ROZ? HOBBES AND I CAN HARDLY HEAR THE TV!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING TELEVISION!
HEY, IF YOU GO RENT US A VCR AND A MOVIE, WE'LL PUT THE TV NEAR A WINDOW SO YOU CAN WATCH TOO!
LET ME IN!
ARE YOU 18? YOU COULD GET US "VENUSIAN VAMPIRE VIXENS".
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10/5

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHAT A DAY IT'S BEEN!
I'M THEORIZING HERE
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www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 10-5

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HONEY, REMEMBER HOW I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO THAT BOOK CONFERENCE?
SORTA.
I'M LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT NOW.
DADDY, IS MOMMY COMING BACK?
YA KNOW, SHE NEVER ACTUALLY CONFIRMED THAT.
www.gocomics.com
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate
10-5

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

So You're The New Guy, HUH? How Do You Like IT Here?
Well, I've Been Unemployed For So Long, I'd SAY The HARDEST THING To Get Used To is WEARING PANTS. HeH HeH.
YEAH. So... WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO START DOING THAT?
I'M GETTING THERE.
© 2009 Universal Uclick
10-5
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Slugger's tool
4 Avocation
9 Despondent
12 Work with
13 "Swan Lake" role
14 Weeding device
15 Wisconsin city
17 Away from WSW
18 Approvals
19 Hidden marksman
21 Societal levels
24 Engineering sch.
25 "Wha'dja say?"
26 Morning moisture
28 Considers
31 War god
33 Thanksgiving veggie
35 Let fall
36 Old hat
38 Talk on and on
40 Modern-day evidence
41 Be on an angle
43 Arizona city
45 "Heavens!"
47 Jurist Lance
48 Possess
49 "Find the pea" con
54 Scarlet
55 Wear down
56 Visibility hindrance
57 "— Miniver"
58 Related to the moon
59 Pair

DOWN

1 Clear the tables
2 Blond shade
3 Golf prop
4 Addicted
5 Homeric work
6 Ginormous
7 Explosion
8 Had a longing (for)
9 Creche figures
10 Top-rated
11 Antelope's playmate
16 Automaton, for short
20 On the rocks
21 Punch-ballot bit
22 Emanation
23 Small, stocky ponies
27 Witty one
29 Stereo alternative
30 Bridge
32 Crystal gazer
34 Waltzing girl of song
37 Maiden
39 Culprit in a trite whodunit
42 India's first prime minister
44 Gear tooth
45 Students' quarters
46 Basin accessory
50 A billion years
51 Toward the stern
52 Tend the lawn
53 Id counterpart

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	A	D	■	B	E	E	S	■	S	T	E	W
A	G	O	■	R	A	N	T	■	H	A	L	O
P	R	O	■	E	R	I	E	■	A	L	S	O
P	A	R	T	A	N	D	P	A	R	C	E	L
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	S	U	E	■	■	■
M	Y	R	R	H	■	F	O	X	■	H	O	E
R	O	U	E	■	K	I	N	■	D	O	N	E
S	U	M	■	W	A	X	■	V	O	W	E	L
■	■	■	O	A	R	■	I	A	N	■	■	■
P	A	R	T	S	A	N	D	L	A	B	O	R
A	L	I	T	■	O	I	L	S	■	A	X	E
D	O	G	E	■	K	N	E	E	■	L	E	I
S	E	A	R	■	E	A	R	S	■	I	N	N

Saturday's answer 10-5

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12			■	13					■	14		
15			16						■	17		
■	■	■	18			■	19		20			
21	22	23				■	24				■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44			
45	46					■	47			■	■	■
48			■	49		50				51	52	53
54			■	55					■	56		
57			■	58					■	59		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kate Winslet, 34; Guy Pearce, 42; Mario Lemieux, 44; Steve Miller, 66

Happy Birthday: Consistency, detail, fair play and patience will be required if you want to take advantage of the creative opportunities coming your way this year. Connecting with old friends, lovers or neighbors will lead to new possibilities. This is a year of reconnecting and reconciliation. Your numbers are 3, 9, 14, 27, 30, 39, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take whatever you do seriously. You will be criticized the moment you try to cut corners or pass your responsibilities on to someone else. Follow through with whatever you start. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): With a couple of productive and industrious changes, you will be able to call the shots. Not everyone will be in agreement with you but you should be able to move forward with only mild interference. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll have to do double duty. No matter how you look at a situation, you can expect to be surprised by the outcome. Keep your guard up and your thoughts to yourself for now. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll have more incentive to make positive changes at home and in your personal life. Getting involved in domestic projects will help ease stress as you figure out ways to accommodate everyone you love. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may feel like getting away but working is what's required. Finishing what you start will take your mind off personal matters. Greater opportunities and the ability to reverse any past mistakes, letdowns or relationship problems will be possible. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Love and romance are kicking in and the time to make your move in a personal situation is now. Changes at home will help you establish the way things will be in the future. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The time is right for launching something you've been working on. A partnership can make a huge difference to your personal and professional future. Don't procrastinate. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Check out an organization that can offer you some ideas pertaining to a project you've had trouble getting up and running. Challenges will come from an unusual source but will help to boost your confidence. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may think you know what you are doing and you can probably fool some of the people you are dealing with, but the ones who know you best will question, criticize and complain about your recent decisions. Change your plans in order to avoid a force play. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You've got all the right moves to get your way and implement changes both at home and within your extended family and friends. Your sincerity and understanding will allow you to build an alliance with someone with the potential to help you in the future. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be careful how you handle emotional issues. You may want to clear the air but do so diplomatically if you want to remain friends with someone you've been spending time with. Kindness and consideration will be the determining factors. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You are up for a whole lot of change and, if you don't back down or give in, you stand to get ahead professionally A change in a partnership will enable you to backtrack and fix a mistake you made. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, reliable and adaptable. You stand up for your beliefs and fight for your rights. You are respected and admired and you set the standard for others.

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					6	5	8	
6		8		1		3		
1	7		8				4	
3				5		9		
	5						6	
		1		6				8
	8				7		2	4
		7		4		8		9
	3	2	9					

Difficulty Level ★ 10/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	5	3	2	8	4	9	7	1
2	7	8	1	6	9	3	4	5
9	4	1	5	7	3	6	8	2
8	2	7	3	9	6	1	5	4
4	6	9	8	1	5	7	2	3
3	1	5	7	4	2	8	9	6
7	8	2	4	3	1	5	6	9
5	3	6	9	2	8	4	1	7
1	9	4	6	5	7	2	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ANDY WARHOL Solution: 9 letters

D	W	R	N	E	E	R	C	S	K	L	I	S	C	F
E	E	E	U	Q	S	E	N	O	T	A	E	K	O	A
L	V	E	I	G	A	W	M	C	C	I	S	U	M	S
A	A	R	R	V	A	U	H	A	T	M	D	A	P	H
N	D	A	E	E	R	L	T	I	F	P	E	M	U	I
O	N	C	B	S	K	E	L	H	M	D	T	E	T	O
I	U	B	O	P	B	A	T	E	O	S	F	N	E	N
T	O	Q	O	U	N	O	M	N	R	R	I	I	R	O
O	R	U	K	O	E	E	A	T	I	Y	G	C	S	V
M	G	I	S	S	D	H	O	E	N	I	F	M	A	E
O	R	R	L	I	U	H	B	O	W	I	E	S	M	L
R	E	K	A	E	S	D	R	O	C	E	R	I	I	U
P	D	Y	H	P	A	R	G	O	T	O	H	P	G	A
G	N	I	S	I	T	R	E	V	D	A	L	O	A	P
P	U	B	L	I	S	H	S	R	A	L	U	P	O	P

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Last Saturday's Answer: Angels

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0325
-v-.
CONCEPCION M. MANGLONA, LORENZA M. MANGLONA, HERMAN M. MANGLONA, and LUIS A. SASAMOTO, Defendants.) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, LUIS A. SASAMOTO:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your cousel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judment by default may be taken against you for the relief of demanded in the complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 8th day of September, 2009:

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: September 18, 2009 **Closing date: October 23, 2009**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

1 (one) Executive Director
1 (one) Staff Engineer

Employment Application must be accompanied with a first copy of all required diploma/certificates, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, October 23, 2009.***

Minimum Qualifications:

Executive Director: Possess a four (4) year degree from an accredited U.S. University with no less than ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in either of the following field: management, engineering, financial, aviation and/or maritime industry. Must have managerial and leadership experience acceptable to the Board of Directors.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Staff Engineering: Possess a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact the Executive Director by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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/s/ **EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.**
Executive Director

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Tigers lose, tied with Twins for AL Central lead

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Tigers dropped into a first-place tie with Minnesota, looking listless Saturday in a 5-1 American League loss to Freddy Garcia and the Chicago White Sox.

Tigers manager Jim Leyland made two pitching changes in the second inning, trying to find a way to end his team's slump. Instead, Detroit lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Earlier in the day, the Twins beat Kansas City 5-4, leaving them even with the Tigers at 85-76.

Detroit will start ace Justin Verlander on Sunday against John Danks. If the Tigers and Twins are still tied at the end of the day, there will be a one-game playoff Tuesday at the Metrodome.

Detroit Tigers Detroit Tigers Placido Polanco, front, and Miguel Cabrera sit in the dugout as teammates head back to the locker room after their 5-1 loss to the Chicago White Sox in a baseball game in Detroit, Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009.

AP

Twins 5, Royals 4

At Minneapolis, Michael Cuddyer hit a solo home run in the eighth inning, lifting Minnesota over Kansas City and leaving the Twins tied with Detroit for the AL Central lead.

Joe Mauer delivered his biggest hit in an MVP-caliber season, a two-out single off Cy Young candidate Zack Greinke that broke a scoreless tie in the sixth. The Twins took a 4-0 lead before the Royals rallied to tie it.

Cuddyer hit his 31st homer of the season off Dusty Hughes (0-2).

Angels 4, Athletics 2

At Oakland, California, Scott Kazmir pitched five scoreless innings and Robb Quinlan drove in three runs as the Los Angeles Angels beat Oakland.

Kazmir (10-9) gave up three hits in his final playoff tuneup. Brian Fuentes pitched a scoreless ninth for his major league-leading 48th save.

Los Angeles, which plays Boston in the first round of the playoffs, won for the sixth time in seven games after a mid-September slump. Angels manager Mike Scioscia substituted liberally to rest his starters for the postseason.

Rays 5, Yankees 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, slumping Dioner Navarro hit a two-run homer and rookie Jeff Niemann pitched five solid innings to win for the first time in more than a month as Tampa Bay beat New York.

Navarro, who has just four hits in his last 33 at-bats, homered off Andy Pettitte (14-8).

Niemann (13-6) allowed two runs and six hits to pick up his team-leading 13th victory in his seventh try. Grant Balfour earned his fourth save.

Red Sox 11, Indians 6

At Boston, Victor Martinez hit a grand slam against his former team as Boston beat Cleveland despite a shaky outing by Josh Beckett.

After missing his previously scheduled start with back spasms, Beckett (17-6) allowed four runs and seven hits in five innings in his final postseason tuneup. But he's 6-0 in his last eight postseason starts and is in line to start Game 2 of the AL division series Friday at the Los Angeles Angels.

Dustin Pedroia, Brian Anderson and Dusty Brown, with his first major league hit, also homered for Boston.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 3

At Baltimore, Mark Hendrickson won his first start since April and Jeff Fiorentino drove in two runs as Baltimore beat Toronto for their third straight victory.

The victory assured the Orioles of avoiding the third 100-loss season in club history.

Hendrickson (6-5) was 0-5 in his previous nine starts. Jim Johnson worked the ninth for his 10th save. Scott Richmond (8-11) went four innings.

Earlier in the day, Toronto fired general manager J.P. Ricciardi after eight seasons and promoted 32-year-old assistant GM Alex Anthopoulos.

Mariners 2, Rangers 1

At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 630th career home run to help Seattle beat Texas.

Griffey opened the fourth inning with a line shot over the right-field wall, his 19th this season, against Tommy Hunter (9-6). Griffey has three home runs in his past four games.

Dodgers 5, Rockies 0

At Los Angeles, after a season-worst five-game losing streak, the Los Angeles Dodgers came through with one game left in the regular season to beat the Colorado Rockies and clinch the National League West.

The Dogers capitalized on a five-run seventh inning triggered by an RBI single from pinch-hitter Ronnie Belliard and an RBI double by Mark Loretta, and six scoreless innings by 21-year-old lefty Clayton Kershaw.

Los Angeles' second straight division title wasn't as easy to secure as it appeared to be last weekend, when it held a six-game lead with seven games remaining.

Marlins 4, Phillies 3

At Philadelphia, Anibal Sanchez pitched seven strong innings to lead Florida over Philadelphia, who still clinched home-field advantage for the first round of the playoffs with St. Louis' loss.

The Phillies have lost three straight since clinching their third consecutive National League East title. The Phillies could have clinched home field with wins in their final two games and two losses by Los Angeles.

Philadelphia, the defending World Series champion, went 7-0 at home in the playoffs last season and will host the opening game Wednesday.

Cole Hamels (10-11), last season's World Series MVP, allowed three runs and three hits while walking two and striking out two in three innings.

Ryan Howard hit his 45th home run for the Phillies.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, Ryan Braun reached 200 hits for the first time on a two-run homer in the first inning as Milwaukee beat St. Louis to ensure the NL Central champions will open the postseason on the road.

Kyle Lohse (6-10) worked six innings in his final bid to make the St. Louis postseason rotation, allowing five runs but only two earned. The Cardinals will pick between 42-year-old John Smoltz and Lohse for their fourth starting spot in the playoffs.

Nationals 6, Braves 4, 11 innings

At Atlanta, Justin Maxwell hit a two-out, two-run homer in the 11th inning as Washington beat Atlanta for its sixth straight victory.

The Nationals, who have the worst record in the majors at 58-103, sent the Braves to their fifth loss in a row.

After both teams scored two runs in the 10th, Maxwell homered off Manny Acosta (1-1).

Cubs 5, Diamondbacks 0

At Chicago, Randy Wells allowed three hits in seven strong innings and struck out a career-high 10 batters to help Chicago beat Arizona.

Wells (12-10) gave up a leadoff double to Stephen Drew and then retired 14 straight before Eric Byrnes hit a two-out single in the fifth. Wells' 12 wins are the most by a Cubs rookie since Kerry Wood had 13 in 1998.

Mets 5, Astros 1

At New York, Pat Misch pitched five solid innings before his outing was cut short by a long rain delay as New York beat Houston.

Fernando Tatis had two hits and two RBIs for New York, which scored all of its runs with two outs.

Misch (3-4) allowed one run and five hits to close his season with consecutive wins, raising his career record to 3-11 in 60 games. Francisco Rodriguez got one out for his 35th save in 42 opportunities.

Reds 8, Pirates 4

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto homered and drove in three runs and Scott Rolen homered as Cincinnati took advantage of Zach Duke's control problems to beat Pittsburgh.

Johnny Cueto (11-11) rebounded from a rough first inning for the win. Duke (11-16) walked a season-high five, one short of his career high.

Padres 2, Giants 0

At San Diego, left-hander Wade LeBlanc held San Francisco to two hits in seven innings and struck out a career-high eight to lead San Diego past San Francisco.

The Padres improved to 37-24 since July 28, the fourth-best record in the major leagues during that span. The Padres are 10-7 against the Giants this year with one game to go, clinching the season series for the third time in five years.

Caipirinhas galore in Rio after 2016 Olympics win

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Confetti poured over 50,000 cheering Brazilians, swimsuit-clad revelers waved green, yellow and blue flags and bartenders worked overtime serving caipirinhas to celebrate one of Rio's proudest moments: The 2016 Olympics are coming to the Marvelous City.

Beamed live from Copenhagen to Copacabana, International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge's announcement of the winning bid elicited a huge roar from the anxious multitudes gathered on the fine white sands of Rio de Janeiro's famed beach.

"How wonderful is this? We couldn't be any happier," gushed 22-year-old student Fernanda Justo. "It's going to be like Carnival for a long time. We deserved to win the Olympics, and now we have to celebrate."

As President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva sobbed with joy in Denmark along with football great Pele, bronzed Cariocas—as Rio residents are known—raised their arms, danced the samba and hugged each other on a balmy, sunny day.

Whooping with joy, the crowd unveiled a banner half the size of a football field with the city's logo, an image of the monumental Christ the Redeemer statue, and "Rio Loves You" written in English.

Then they hit the bars to furiously down caipirinhas—a potent tropical cocktail made from sugarcane liquor, fresh lime juice, sugar and ice.

Rio's 6 million citizens believe the games—the first Olympics for South America—have the power to transform the entire region, promote social integration and leave a lasting legacy in a city known for its striking landscape and pristine beaches, but also grinding poverty and shocking homicide rates.

In Rio's sprawling slums, police and heavily armed drug traffickers openly engage in urban warfare that frequently kills or wounds innocent bystanders. Even the highway to the international airport is periodically shut down by shootouts.

But the government has promised significant improvements to get the city ready. And Cariocas are hoping to benefit.

"This is huge for Rio and for the entire country," said 67-year-old Sueli Ferreira, wearing a hat with the colors of the Brazilian flag. "It's going to be good for the economy, good for the people. This gives us hope that things will be better here."

Silva, who gave bear hugs to members of Brazil's Olympic delegation, called Friday a "sacred day" as he was interviewed by Brazilian reporters in Copenhagen.

"If I died right now, my life would have been worthwhile," Silva said. "No one can now doubt the strength of Brazil's economy, its social greatness and our ability to present a plan."

He said Brazil's passion, heart and soul helped the city outdo Madrid, Chicago and Tokyo after failed bids to land the 1936, 2004 and 2012 games.

"This is a day to commemorate because Brazil has left behind its status of a second-class nation," Silva said. "Today we're getting the respect that Brazil has been deserving."

Winning the 2016 Olympics means not just the right to host the prestigious event, but also the opportunity to benefit from billions of dollars from new investments and a big boost to the city's already robust tourism industry.

Olympic visitors will take in Rio's stunning beaches and famous landmarks such as Sugar Loaf mountain and the Christ the Redeemer statue, which gazes down at the city from atop a rainforest-covered peak.

Brazil is relying on an economy recovering strongly from the global meltdown to fund its $14.4 billion games budget—the largest of any bidding city. Some worry, however, that persistent corruption could keep some money from going to those who need it most.

"If they do what they promised to do, it will be great," 45-year-old retiree Edinalva Kzolw said. "Rio can only benefit from this if everything is done correctly, but here in Brazil you never know. I'm hopeful on one hand and skeptical on the other."

Favre still zings it, but velocity no big deal now

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—The zing on Brett Favre's passes has long been legendary, but at this stage of his career he's more of a crafty thrower than the gunslinger his image was previously centered around.

Favre's velocity is not a big deal to the Minnesota Vikings. The transition to their new quarterback has been more about route-running preferences and the timing of his release. There haven't been any awkward adjustments to his speedballs or horror stories about broken knuckles or blistered fingers.

"When he first got here it was a change of pace, but Tarvaris Jackson doesn't throw any softer," rookie wide receiver Percy Harvin said. "Since I've been here, I've been catching pretty hard balls. I catch them from him so many times it becomes routine."

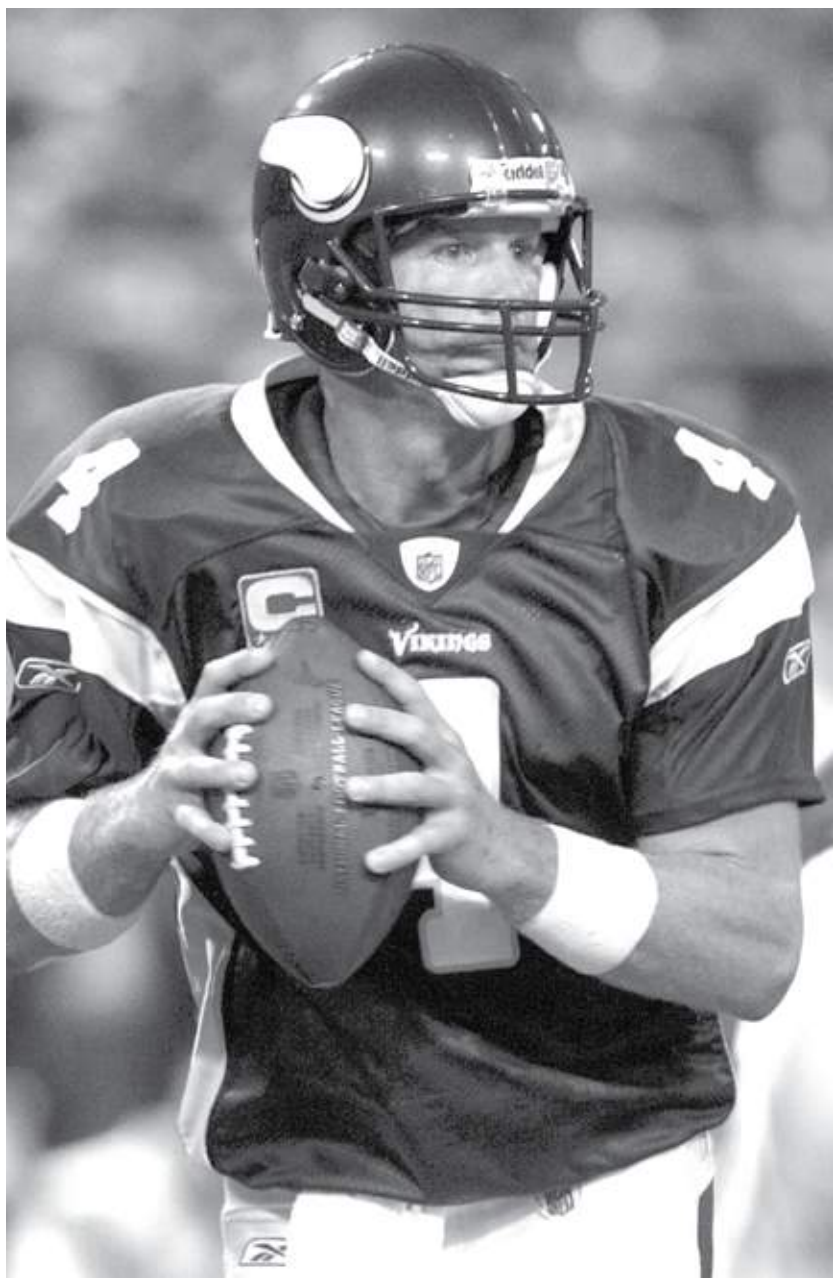
Jackson's inaccuracy and inconsistency at this most critical position prompted Minnesota's pursuit of the league's all-time leading passer and bumped him to backup status. Jackson, though, does not lack for arm strength.

Favre's rhythm with his receivers remains a work in progress, but that's not because he's throwing heat they can't handle.

"It's fine," wide receiver Bernard Berrian said. "T-Jack throws harder anyway."

Here's where Favre's skill is still unique, however: The quick trigger.

"As soon as you turn around his ball is right there," wide receiver Darius Reynaud said. "You've got to hurry up and get your hands up. I caught some in practice last week: As soon as I turned around the ball is right in my face. So I had to put my hands up. I almost missed it, but I caught it."



AP

In this photo taken on Sept. 27, 2009, Minnesota Vikings' quarterback Brett Favre (4) drops back to pass during an NFL football game, Sunday against the San Francisco 49ers in Minneapolis.

Tight end Visanthe Shiancoe said he has had to concentrate harder to catch Favre's passes.

"It's a really tight spiral," Shiancoe said. "The spin is the real difference in what I've seen from other quarterbacks. Other quarterbacks might throw just as hard, but the spin is a little different so you've got to really look it in to your hands."

Favre showed his risky side with rainbows downfield last year with the New York Jets. But his focus on precision and putting a talented offense in position to score - rather than doing it all himself—is a progression that began a few years ago with the Packers under coach Mike McCarthy.

As Favre has aged, his style has evolved. Through three games, he has five touchdown passes and only one interception. He was off-target for most of last Sunday's game against San Francisco, but the winning drive in the final minute was a vintage performance. The final throw into the back of the end zone to Greg Lewis was put in the perfect place.

"I want to just play the way I played last week, with a few more improvements," Favre said, looking ahead to Monday's super-hyped game against Green Bay. "There are a few plays that I could have made last week that I didn't. Fortunately, the one that I did make was a huge play for us."

McCarthy remarked about Favre's poise from watching the film in preparation for the game this week.

"I think he still throws the ball with good velocity," the coach said. "I think it was clearly evident just on the last throw of the San Francisco game. It was an excellent throw and a great catch. I think he still has good feet. He's always had great command of the line of scrimmage, just the way he has handled that aspect of it. I think he looks sharp."

Packers wide receiver Greg Jennings jammed his right index finger while catching a ball from Aaron Rodgers during an offseason workout, so he's more impressed with the pass speed of his current quarterback than his old one. Jennings said it looks on video like Favre's ball isn't going as fast as it did when he was in his prime.

"Aaron is above that. He throws it with a lot of juice," Jennings said.

The last time Favre played for the Packers in the Metrodome, he set the NFL's career record for touchdown passes with a bullet to Jennings. Two years later, the strange sight of Favre in purple will be apparent for all.

"That's the way the tables have turned, and that's the case right now, and best of luck to him and their team," Jennings said. "I'll pray that no one gets hurt, no one gets injured, and everybody walks off the field healthy—but we leave victorious."

So the Vikings will aim for a stronger offensive performance than they had against the stingy 49ers, trusting the touch on Favre's throws as he spreads the ball around will be precise enough again to supplement Adrian Peterson's running—and that the old man is still sturdy enough to beat his old team.

"As a receiver it's our job to catch the ball, whether it's hard or whether it's soft," Lewis said. "I couldn't care less how hard he throws it. If he throws it to me, I'm going to do everything I can to try to corral it."

Smith's days in jail provide sobering experience

DENVER (AP)—J.R. Smith is pledging more maturity this season, a promise he's made in the past.

The sharp-shooting Denver Nuggets guard realizes that some will believe it, while some will remain skeptical. That's fine with him. He knows he's changed.

It's been a sobering offseason for the 24-year-old Smith, who spent 24 days in a New Jersey correctional facility after pleading guilty to reckless driving.

Hanging out in an isolated cell, Smith had time for reflection. What he took away from his stint in jail was simple—wake up each day with a purpose.

"Know every time that I do something it doesn't affect just me," said Smith, whose 3-point shooting last season helped the Nuggets advance to the Western Conference finals. "It affects my family, my friends, my team, players and coaches."

Smith admitted driving an SUV through a stop sign and colliding with a car in June 2007. His friend, 21-year-old Andre Bell, later died from his injuries.

At his sentencing last June, Smith expressed his remorse, saying "I am deeply sorry. I never intended for this to happen."

Wanda Bell wandered over to Smith at the court hearing, giving him a hug and telling him that she loved him.

She can't hold a grudge, not against someone who meant so much to her son. The buddies formed an immediate bond after meeting their sophomore year at St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, N.J.

"Two peas in a pod," Wanda Bell said Friday in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "Andre was so fond of J.R."

That's why she's hoping to one day sit down with Smith, just to talk about everything that happened.

"I know this can't be easy for J.R.," said Bell, who donated her son's organs. "This is something he has to deal with the rest of his life: My friend is gone. I miss him, too. ... He was just a beautiful son."

There's still a civil suit pending from the accident, said the family's attorney, Harvey Grossman. They're hoping it's resolved soon and they can move on.

"I'd like to see the Bell and Smith families get together and put things back on a positive note," Wanda Bell said. "It's been hard for both families."

Smith spent most of his time in jail in protective custody, passing the hours in jail by sticking to a daily routine of sit-ups and push-ups. He also had other prisoners slip him books under his door. One was a chemistry textbook and another a novel by Stephen King, which he didn't finish because horror books creep him out.

Mostly though, he just thought about life as he stared at the walls. He has a baby daughter now, even more incentive to mature.

"I don't want her to see me doing some of the stupid things I've been doing," he said.

Smith also received phone calls from teammates. Those were a little awkward.

"When somebody is in that situation, it's hard to ask him, 'How you doing?'" Carmelo Anthony said. "I kept telling him, 'You'll be out in a couple of days.'"

When he did get out, Smith headed to Las Vegas and spent some time working out with Chauncey Billups, who's been serving as Smith's mentor.

"Trying to pretty much follow in his footsteps," Smith said.

The Nuggets have been marching to Billups' beat since he arrived last season. The veteran helped solidify the team, transforming the squad from middle-of-the-pack into a contender.

Now he's grooming Smith.

"We've had some very, very in-depth conversations about him growing up," Billups said. "He has the opportunity of a lifetime and we're going to really need him, we're going to depend on him a lot this year."

Smith was instant energy off the bench for the Nuggets last season, averaging a career-high 15.2 points a game. And while there's a starting spot open, Nuggets coach George Karl isn't so sure he wants to promote Smith.

Not that Smith isn't deserving, it's just that Karl likes his spark off the bench.

The Nuggets also have to weather Smith's absence as he serves a league-mandated seven-game suspension for pleading guilty to reckless driving.

As for Smith's pledge of more maturity, Billups has already noticed a difference.

"I do think he's recognized that's he's made some very, very immature mistakes, not only this summer but the last two or three years," Billups said. "I think he recognizes he can't continue to do that. Hopefully, he has a clean slate this year."

That's his hope as well.

"I've said in the past that I've matured," Smith said. "Now, it's not about saying - it's about showing."

NBA BRIEFS

Cavs guard West held out of scrimmage

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Troubled Cavaliers guard Delonte West did not join his teammates for an intrasquad scrimmage, the public's first chance to see superstars LeBron James and Shaquille O'Neal on the floor together as Cleveland teammates. West, who skipped the team's first four practices of training camp without permission, stayed back at the Cavs' training facility and worked out as the team held a scrimmage in front of 5,000 fans, some of whom began lining up at 8 a.m. to get inside. West has battled bipolar disorder and was recently arrested on gun possession charges in Maryland. A team spokesman said general manager Danny Ferry made the decision for West to sit out the scrimmage. Ferry has not addressed West's situation since media day on Monday.

Warriors' Wright hurts shoulder again

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Golden State Warriors forward Brandan Wright injured his shooting shoulder during practice Friday and could miss extended time. The team says Wright will undergo an MRI exam Monday to further determine the severity of the injury. A key reserve in Don Nelson's lineup expected to contribute regularly this season, Wright might have sustained a similar injury to the one that sidelined him for two months last season. He partially dislocated his left shoulder in early January and missed two months, then briefly returned in March before sitting out the final 10 games. Also Saturday, the Warriors waived forward Diamon Simpson.

Expanded use of instant replay approved

NEW YORK (AP)—NBA referees will be able to use instant replay on shot-clock and out-of-bounds calls this season. The NBA Board of Governors approved the expanded use on Friday. Referees will be permitted to check replay to see if the 24-second clock expired before a successful shot or a foul. They can also consult video during the last 2 minutes of regulation and any overtime period to determine which player last touched the ball prior to it going out of bounds

Team Pacquiao awaits Cotto 'clone'

BOXING

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines—There was a faint, but palpable murmur of doubt from the boxing online community when trainer Freddie Roach said Manny Pacquiao will weld Miguel Cotto's behind to the canvas when the two clash on November 14 in Las Vegas.

Shawn Porter, though, thinks the doubters are in for a surprise. "He's going to shock the world again," Porter said.

That's from a guy who earned his share of applause from an appreciative gym crowd after landing jarring punches and crisp combinations at the Filipino pound-for-pound icon Thursday, the second day of sparring for Pacquiao.

"He's getting hit too much but that's because his timing isn't there yet," said Roach, who noted that Pacquiao generally starts off slow during the opening two weeks of training camp.

"First couple of weeks aren't always the best. But we don't really start boxing until six weeks before the fight so we're still ahead of schedule."

Pacquiao, though, didn't seem to be bothered by the hits, opening himself up to barrages while leaning on the ropes as if to say he can absorb the best that his sparring partners can dish out. And to underscore that point, Team Pacquiao is eyeing yet another beast of a sparring partner in Omar Henry, another Cotto clone.

"[Henry has] the same build, same everything, same haircut; the guy likes to be Miguel Cotto," said conditioning coach Alex Ariza of the sparring partner who is expected here within the week.

Porter, though, admitted that he felt the sting in Pacquiao's punches this early and said that the first few days of sparring isn't much of a gauge as far as preparedness is concerned.

"We've got a long way to go," said Porter. "It's just a matter of staying focused and getting him more ready."

This early, Pacquiao has now logged seven rounds of sparring and Roach admits that they're still at 40 percent for the fight against Cotto, where the Pacman will be aiming to gobble up the Puerto Rican's WBO welterweight title in an attempt to become the first boxer to win world crowns in seven different—including lineal belts.

"He still needs work on his timing but I'm really happy," Roach said. "I'm not completely satisfied because he leaned on the ropes too much. His performance today isn't what's going to beat Cotto but that's why we're here."

Roach had earlier predicted that Pacquiao would knock Cotto out in their bout slated at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Porter, pressed for a prediction, begged off. Although he made it clear he wasn't betting against the Filipino.

"Hey, that's the Pacman," Porter, who was accompanied by his father and coach Ken to the sparring session, said. "He's definitely the best of the best." ***(PDI)***

FIJI

From Page 28

the Games, and Guam, which also had a lean delegation to the Cook Islands, failed to make it to the medal podium.

Golf's Jess Wabol and triathlon's Joshua Manglona were the CNMI's representatives to the Games. The two athletes and CNMI chef de mission Michael White left Rarotonga a day before the closing ceremony took place and are expected to arrive on Saipan this morning after staying for three days in Cairns, Australia.

The 2009 Pacific Mini Games' closing ceremony had athletes marching onto the field for the last time and settling down to enjoy the colorful entertainment provided by some of the Cook Islands' top cultural groups. The flag was lowered and handed over to Wallis and Futuna, the hosts of the next Pacific Mini Games in 2013.

The flame was extinguished and then participants were treated to a fireworks display, providing a fitting finale to the two-week event.

A total of 415 medals were given in the Mini Games, 144 of which were gold, 140 were silver, and 131 were bronze.

Fifteen events were lined up in the Mini Games calendar, namely athletics, boxing, lawn bowls, netball, Rugby 7, Rugby League, sailing, squash, table tennis, lawn tennis, touch rugby, triathlon, va'a (canoe racing), and weightlifting.

Others on the list are Saipan's Mieko Carey, Franky Batelier, Renata Bucher, Carina Wasle, Sam Gardner, Mike Vine, Rom Akerson, Carla Prada, Shonny Vanlandingham, Seth Wealing, Nicola Leary, and Richard Ussher.

MANGLONA

From Page 28

return to Saipan today after staying in Rarotonga, Cook Island for almost two weeks to represent the CNMI to the triathlon event in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games.

Manglona completed the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run course on Wednesday (Thursday on Saipan) in two hours, 54 minutes, and 36 seconds to place 10th among the 11 male triathletes entered in the event.

He hit his target of finishing the race in less than three hours and his time in Rarotonga was a new personal best.

Before the Mini Games, Manglona participated in two races on Saipan this year. In the Tagaman Triathlon, he submitted 4:27:23 to finish fourth in the 20 to 24 age group.

In his debut in XTERRA Saipan Championships, Manglona clocked in at 4:57:54 and was second to Quincy Johnson in the 20 to 29 age group contest. Johnson earned the XTERRA Championship slot for topping his age group, while Manglona despite his runner-up finish was given a ticket to Maui after getting an invitation from event organizers, headed by David Nicholas, managing director of XTERRA World Tour.

Manglona must be in Hawaii before Oct. 21, as the practice course will open on that day, giving the Tinian triathlete three days to familiarize himself with the event's route.

Manglona and other CNMI representatives to the XTERRA World will be participating in the parade of nations during the Night of Champions dinner on Oct. 24. All triathletes will walk to the luau festival grounds waving their country flags.

The next day, races will begin at 9am, while the awards ceremony will take place at 7pm.

Meanwhile, 70 pros have already registered for XTERRA World.

The Top 10 triathletes in the women's division are heading to Maui later this month with two-time champ Julie Dibens of United Kingdom looking for an unprecedented three-peat.

In the men's division, nine of the Top 10 will be back in Maui led by last year's winner and Spanish mountain bike racer Ruben Ruzafa.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

elimination format, while the adults will be a single-elimination affair. All games will implement a pro-set scoring or a race-to-eight game.

Interested participants have until Oct. 7 to register for the IT&E and Tan Holdings-supported tournament.

Loyola is encouraging youth and adult players on the island to participate in the tennis challenge as this will serve as a tune-up for the much bigger event that Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and Tan Holdings will be holding next month.

"This is the best time for players who took a long break to get back to form and practice for the NMITA tournament next month," Loyola said.

The last time a local tennis tournament was held on Saipan was in May with the NMITA holding the 2009 DFS Micronesia Tennis Championships. In June, CNMI netters then went to Guam for the 2009 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament and in August to Fiji for the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Loyola is expecting more than 50 players to participate in the three-day tournament. Entrance fee is $7 for adults and $10 for kids. The Top 3 placers in each division will be feted in an award ceremony on Oct. 12 after the completion of the games. Champions will receive trophies, while runners-up will take home medals.

"At this early, I would like to thank IT&E and Tan Holdings for their generosity. We have been experiencing financial difficulties at this time, but these two companies are kind enough to lend a helping hand for this tournament," Loyola said.

To register or for more information about the 2009 Saipan Tennis Challenge, contact Loyola at 285-3135 or via e-mail at pbloyola@yahoo.com.

REPLACEMENT

From Page 28

of time, except the referees' lead negotiator removed himself from the talks after the union voted not to accept a recent proposal. And as someone familiar with the negotiations told me Thursday, "We're talking about pension and severance at this point. The two sides just aren't that far apart."

That gap was narrow enough that after a meeting in Philadelphia last Friday, which the NBA initiated, the league thought there would be a deal after making some concessions. The league even drafted a memo that told its teams an agreement in principle had been reached on a two-year deal. But that was last week. Tuesday the NBA, according to the Associated Press, which obtained a copy of a memo, told its teams the league had "no expectations of concluding a timely labor contract."

ESPN.com reported that the locked-out refs voted 43-14 to reject the latest offer from the league after veteran referee Bill Spooner, who's a member of the union's executive committee and a hard-liner, changed his mind. For basketball fanatics who know the personalities of the league's most recognizable refs and want to keep score in this little game, it's said that Bob Delaney and Joey Crawford are ready to end the dispute and get to work now, while Spooner, Salvatore Bennett and Steve Javie are the hard-liners.

The bottom line, as it usually is in these situations, is that the NBA needs its regular officials and the refs need to work. In 1998 the NBA players, even with as much money as they make, found their resources strained by a work stoppage. So how long can the referees, who make between $91,000 and $350,000 or so a year, stay out? "About a month," one source said. There are some referees who are already worried about mortgage payments and others who have already moved their kids from private to public schools.

In 1995, the last time the league and its referees were locked in a dispute, the solution was fairly easy: The NBA needed to open its wallet. The '90s were part of the league's golden age. It was three years after the summer of the Dream Team. There was no crying poor. There was no case to be made for the NBA acting tough with its refs.

Now?

The referees have so little leverage. Some say none. "You've got different owners than you had in 1995," one source said. "You've got harsher economic times. You can't sell sympathy for people making between $90,000 and $300,000-some dollars when some season ticket holders have lost their jobs. They're in a helluva predicament. Owners wanted to fire 10 (referees) already. ... There's a segment of owners and some league executives who are quite willing to let this happen."

Also working against the referees, according to another source, is the fact that the referees coming from the D-League are so much better prepared to work NBA games than anybody was in 1995, when there was no D-League. One person close to the union said he worries "that the D-League guys will be competent enough that it won't make that much of a difference to the people consuming the product."

The NBA players aren't buying that, not yet anyway. Denver's Kenyon Martin, known to not only have run-ins with refs but relish them, is expecting issues. "I'm going to get suspended in the first month of the season," Martin told Fanhouse. "I'm going to have 15 technicals in the first month just for the simple fact that (replacement refs) don't know how I run my mouth. ... The game is going to be terrible with those replacements."

The NBA might have been more susceptible to that argument from the locked-out referees and the players 14 years ago, but it's unlikely now.

One sports labor lawyer said recently, "If the economic downturn is going to force the players to have to take a $700 million hit, what makes you think the league is going to give into the referees?"

Just as the NFL is expecting teams to have television blackouts because not all the seats are sold, as has been the custom, NBA teams are braced for season ticket and sponsorship cancellations. Those who have been in favor of the referees accepting the NBA's latest offer point out that instead of a five-year deal, the league is offering two years. "They could be back at that table in better economic times, in two years," the source said.

Martin, as only he could express it, put the onus on NBA Commissioner David Stern to figure out a way to get the regular refs on the court by the start of the season. "It's on David Stern to get it done," Martin said. "Ain't nobody else but him to get it done."

The irony is that the only time NBA referees are appreciated is when they're not around, though don't ask coaches about that. For every coach, like Larry Brown, who expressed some sympathy the officials who are locked out there's probably one like George Karl, who didn't bother to edit himself when he told reporters recently, "Coaches think refereeing is bad no matter how good it is."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	102	59	.634	–
z-Boston	94	67	.584	8
Tampa Bay	84	77	.522	18
Toronto	75	86	.466	27
Baltimore	63	98	.391	39

Central Division

Detroit	85	76	.528	–
Minnesota	85	76	.528	–
Chicago	79	82	.491	6
Cleveland	65	96	.404	20
Kansas City	65	96	.404	20

West Division

y-Los Angeles	96	65	.596	–
Texas	87	74	.540	9
Seattle	84	77	.522	12
Oakland	75	86	.466	21

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

y-Philadelphia	92	69	.571	–
Florida	87	74	.540	5
Atlanta	86	75	.534	6
New York	69	92	.429	23
Washington	58	103	.360	34

Central Division

y-St. Louis	91	70	.565	–
Chicago	83	77	.519	7 1/2
Milwaukee	79	82	.491	12
Cincinnati	77	84	.478	14
Houston	74	87	.460	17
Pittsburgh	62	98	.388	28 1/2

West Division

y-Los Angeles	94	67	.584	–
x-Colorado	92	69	.571	2
San Francisco	87	74	.540	7
San Diego	75	86	.466	19
Arizona	69	92	.429	25

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 5, Arizona 0
N.Y. Mets 5, Houston 1
Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 4
Florida 4, Philadelphia 3
Washington 6, Atlanta 4, 11 innings
Cincinnati 8, Pittsburgh 4
San Diego 2, San Francisco 0
L.A. Dodgers 5, Colorado 0
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 2
Minnesota 5, Kansas City 4
Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 1
Baltimore 6, Toronto 3
Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 3
Boston 11, Cleveland 6
Seattle 2, Texas 1

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

CNMI athletes complete Mini Games stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI athletes Jess Wabol and Joshua Manglona completed their stint in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands last week.

Wabol competed in the golf event and finished 21st after four rounds of play. He recorded his best performance in the Mini Games in the last round after shooting a 2-over par 74 in the fourth round. The veteran golfer tallied 5-over par 77 in the first round and 3-over par 75 and 7-over par 79 in the second and third, respectively, for a four-round total of 305.

Manglona joined the triathlon event, which took place a day before tsunamis hit Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga. Samoa and American Samoa are just a short distance northwest of Rarotonga and effects of the tsunami were felt in the waters of Avatiu, the venue for the swim leg of the triathlon.

Manglona finished the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run course in two hours, 54 minutes, and 36 seconds to hit his target of completing the event in less than three hours.

Wabol and Manglona will be returning to Saipan this morning with CNMI chef de mission Michael White.

In local events, two leagues kicked off their fall season.

The 2009 NMIFA Youth Football League started its fall season with 38 teams. The league has competitions in four age groups, namely the co-ed U6, U8, and U10, and the boys' and girls' U13.

The U8 division has the most teams with 10, while U6 and U8 have nine each. The boys' U13 has six teams, while only four teams are entered in the girls' U13 division.

Games in Week 1 of the fall league were completed, but only results in the U13 division were compiled. Winning their debuts were MP United-Blue, Matansa Football Club, and Paire Football Club in the boys' U13 and Matansa FC and Paire FC in the girls' U13.

Also prevailing in their debuts in the PIC/Miller/Gatorade/Monster-NMIVA 4-Person Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Fall League 2009 were Pwipwise, O-No, and Chenutt Crew.

Other teams entered in this year' beach volleyball fall league are Make It Ball, Manta Diver, Fisingan, Random Radicals, Angamwas, Special Delivery, Scott's Team, Just Do It, and Git It.

Games in Week 2 of the football fall league were cancelled due to Typhoon Melor. Also called off were Friday's matches in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League and 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball.

The last playing day for the IT&E caging for last week was on Wednesday with Hyatt Regency Saipan escaping with a 112-100 overtime win over the host. Also prevailing on Wednesday was CPA-Accounting, which topped Customs, 87-42 for its third straight win of the week. CPA-Accounting on Monday edged Bank of Guam, 71-53.

In the Rotary caging, the Sixers snapped the Sonics' five-game winning run with a 63-54 triumph on Monday.

Other winners in the Rotary caging last week were the Runnin' Rebels, Ol'Aces, 670 Rollers, and G-Stars.

In another local event, James Abuy recorded his second victory in the PIC Bike for Life after ruling the third edition of the race at Obyan Beach.

Abuy, which tied Ric Antonio for first place in the PIC Bike for Life 1 in March this year, completed the almost 20K trail race in 46 minutes and 31 seconds to top the pro division.

In the non-pro division, 14 joined the race with PIC assistant restaurant manager Rommell Bartolo finishing ahead of the pack after timing in at 54:22.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Riders and supporters of the PIC Bike for Life 3 pose for a group photo after the race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CPA-Accounting's Barry Mararita escapes past Bank of Guam's Dexter Mendiola during their game in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rommell Bartolo won the non-pro division of the PIC Bike for Life 3.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Matansa Football Club player (in yellow uniform) kicks the ball against three Tan Holdings FC defenders during their U131 game in Week 1 of the NMIFA youth fall league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

JACK HARDY
Joshua Manglona, seen here heading to the finish line of the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championships, completed his stint in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ol'Aces' Wes Tomokane challenges the defense of three Young 670 Rollers players during their game in the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Angamwas' Luther Taylor returns to Special Delivery during their game in the PIC/Miller/Gatorade/Monster-NMIVA 4-Person Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Fall League 2009 on the PIC sand court last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jess Wabol will return to Saipan today after competing in the golf event of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

CNMI athletes complete Mini Games stint

CNMI athletes Jess Wabol and Joshua Manglona completed their stint in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands last week. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tigers lose, tied with Twins for AL Central lead

The Detroit Tigers dropped into a first-place tie with Minnesota, looking listless Saturday in a 5-1 American League loss to Freddy Garcia and the Chicago White Sox. 24

Fiji reigns in Mini Games

Samoa rules Pacific Sevens

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fiji may have won the overall championship in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games, but Samoa had the last hurrah in the quadrennial event after winning the finals of the Sevens Rugby Tournament on Friday (Saturday on Saipan).

Samoa stunned Fiji, the Kings of the Pacific Sevens, 38-7, to claim the last gold medal at stake in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Tonga notched the bronze after beating Niue, 36-12, in the consolation game.

The Samoan Sevens Rugby Champions held their heads high during the very emotional last medal presentation as the Samoan community sang their national anthem in remembrance of those at home. The Samoans dedicated their victory to those who died from the tsunami that hit the island last week. The eventual champions said earlier that they were playing for a country in pain and they wanted to put in a brilliant performance to somehow lift the island's spirit.

After winning the last gold medal in the Cook Islands, Samoa secured the No. 4 spot in the medal tally, outclassing the hosts. Samoa earned 16 gold medals, 16 silver, and 24 bronze after 12 days of competition. The Cook Islands had a 15-13-17 tally.

Fiji collected 78 medals to rule the 2009 edition of the Mini Games. The newly crowned champion nailed 32 gold medals, 26 silver, and 20 bronze. New Caledonia finished at second with its 23-21-22 tally, while Tahiti completed the Top 3 with its 21 gold medals, 22 silver, and 16 bronze.

Twenty-one of the original 22 island-nations participated in the Mini Games and 19 made it to the medal tally. The Marshall Islands had a last-minute withdrawal from the multi-sports event. The CNMI, which sent only two athletes in

See FIJI on Page 26

WWW.SPORTINGPULSE.COM
Samoans perform their haka after winning the last gold medal in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on Friday.

WWW.SPORTINGPULSE.COM
Participants in the closing ceremony of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games watch the fireworks display.

Manglona's next stop: Maui

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI triathlete Joshua Manglona won't be staying in the Commonwealth for long once he returns from the 2009 Pacific Mini Games as he is headed to Maui, Hawaii this month for the 2009 XTERRA World Championship.

Manglona was invited to compete in the 2009 XTERRA World Championship in Makena after participating in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championships early this year.

The 2009 XTERRA World Championship will be held on Oct. 25 with the Tinian triathlete expected to join athletes from 20 countries and 40 states. Over 600 triathletes are joining the world's most important off-road triathlon event this year.

The 21-year-old Manglona will

See MANGLONA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joshua Manglona, seen here briefing participants about the course of a tournament on Tinian, is heading to Maui, Hawaii later this month for the 2009 XTERRA World Championships.

Saipan Tennis Challenge set this weekend

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tennis action on Saipan will resume this weekend after a break of more than four months with Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan instructor Peter Loyola holding the 2009 Saipan Tennis Challenge.

The tournament will feature competitions only in the singles event and will run from Oct. 10 to 12 at the American Memorial Park and Fiesta Resort and Spa tennis courts.

The three-day singles tournament is open to three divisions, namely the kids category, women's, and men's. Competition in the kids division is by level with Level 1 for beginners. Interested players in the kids division can play in three other categories, namely Level 2, 3, and 4.

The women's singles will have the 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, and 4.5 divisions, while the men's competition is open to only three divisions, namely 3.0, 4.0, and 4.5.

The kids division will have a double-

See SAIPAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Quintin Ramsey is seen here in action during a local tournament at AMP tennis courts early this year. Tennis action will resume at AMP after more than four months of break with the staging of the 2009 Saipan Tennis Challenge this weekend.

Replacement referees may be a worse answer in NBA labor dispute

Anything in sports preceded by the word "replacement" is a bad thing. Replacement players, replacement teams and even replacement refs. They're not as good, not ever, as the people they're replacing and worse yet, the product always suffers. That brings me to the NBA, which has locked out its officials in a contract dispute and is going with 62 replacement referees as the preseason begins this week.

It's become fashionable in recent years to trash the men (and one woman) who officiate NBA games, and it became far too easy when referee Tim Donaghy went to jail for providing information to gamblers. You can't get through two days of the playoffs without somebody talking (absurdly) about referees being involved in "conspiracies" that would favor the Lakers or Celtics or somebody. Even so, the real refs, the ones currently locked out, are the best in the world at calling NBA games, and if you don't think so just wait until there's a controversy involving a play called by one of the "replacement" referees, who will come from the NBA's Developmental League, the WNBA and NCAA.

Okay, there's a month to get a deal done, which seems like plenty

See REPLACEMENT on Page 26

By MICHAEL WILBON
(c) 2009, The Washington Post